



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Notes 'Dissatisfaction' With Jordan, PLO

LD0204094491 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
0500 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] 'Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah, Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] secretary general, again denied that there was an official GCC decision to halt financial aid to Jordan and the PLO. He said the GCC has never discussed the matter collectively.

In an interview with Radio London last night, he said that what has happened is a voluntary freeze on aid based on the private convictions of each GCC member country. He added that these convictions will disappear with the disappearance of the causes that led to them. He said there is a mood of dissatisfaction in the region because of the Jordan and the PLO's adoption of stands incompatible with the Arab League Charter and Arab security.

On the Damascus meeting between the GCC member countries and Egypt and Syria, 'Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah said that the aim was to establish new bases for an Arab political and economic plan of action. He pointed out that these bases provide for full commitment to the principles on which Arab League Charter and the respect of the sovereignty of the states are founded.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General on Preparations for Summit

LD0304143391 London KUNA in Arabic 1238 GMT
3 Apr 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 3 Apr (KUNA)—In a statement to KUNA here today, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], expressed the whole Islamic world's pleasure at the liberation of Kuwait, the end of the Iraqi occupation, and the return of proud and free Kuwait to its people and legitimacy under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, who is president of the current ICO session.

He said that the aim of his current tour of the Gulf region is to congratulate its leaders on the liberation of Kuwait and its return to its rightful owners, as well as to create the necessary climate for proper preparations for the sixth Islamic summit scheduled to be held in the Senegalese capital Dakar on 9 December. This summit will be preceded by a conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Istanbul in Turkey on 3 August. [passage omitted]

He said that the sixth summit, which was scheduled for January this year and was postponed until December because of the Gulf crisis, will discuss all the current Islamic issues. He pointed out that all the countries he has so far visited have encouraged him to continue his

contacts with the various ICO member countries in order to heal the rift and unify ranks so as to ensure the success of the important Islamic summit conference.

Al-Ghabid concluded his visit to the United Arab Emirates today and left for Muscat. He said that his current tour covered Egypt, the Comorra Islands, and the United Arab Emirates and that he will conclude this tour, his second, by visiting Oman. On his first tour, he visited Tunisia, Niger, Senegal, and Mauritania. He will embark on his third tour after the month of Ramadan to complete his contacts with the remaining ICO member countries on preparations for the Islamic foreign ministers conference and the Islamic summit.

Palestinian Affairs

Faysal al-Husayni: We Await Answers From U.S.

PM0404151091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 29 Mar 91 p 5

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of Arab Studies Institute in Jerusalem, by Huda al-Husayni; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Huda al-Husayni] What is the background to your meetings at the al-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem? And is true that these meetings started after you were accused of acting without taking account of the public's feelings?

[Faysal al-Husayni] These meetings started long ago. They used to include large numbers of people—over 20 or 30. They used to be held at homes, clubs, and particular locations. The purpose was to discuss the general issues raised. We call these groups "think tanks." That continued for some time. This year and in recent years we started holding public rallies, both commemorative and others, to air a particular political view. But we found that this process was a "monologue" and not a "dialogue," because they were led by a single person. A while ago, after the Gulf war, some public meetings involving large numbers of people started to be held in response to calls from schools and clubs, until the al-Hakawati Theater meeting was held. The participants believed that one meeting was not sufficient, which is why we decided that the al-Hakawati Theater should become a public forum where various issues can be discussed weekly. Incidentally, the al-Hakawati Theater meeting is not the only meeting. There are other meetings which are held in Jerusalem at night. At these meetings issues are raised very openly.

The Gulf war has disrupted the situation, prompting participants to broach issues clearly and frankly. This, because the war was a huge event that cannot be treated as a passing incident. [passage omitted]

[Huda al-Husayni] Will you ask to meet with U.S. President George Bush when he visits Israel next month, especially since he met with 18 Palestinian figures when he was vice president?

[Faysal al-Husayni] As happened with regard to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's meeting, it is not up to the Palestinian figures here. It is up to the PLO, which can see the picture in a broader way from outside. If the PLO decides that a meeting with President Bush is necessary, it will issue a decision in that regard. Then Palestinian figures inside will implement that order. If the PLO decides not to meet with President Bush, we will adhere to that decision, too. [passage omitted]

[Huda al-Husayni] Has Secretary Baker submitted certain questions to you, and is he awaiting answers to them?

[Faysal al-Husayni] In fact, we posed certain questions and are awaiting replies to them. We put the following question to him: Within what kind of atmosphere and conditions could the U.S.-PLO dialogue be resumed? He promised to give us the answer, and we are still waiting. For our part, I believe that it was clear to him that we Palestinians have offered all that can be offered. We refuse to be asked to offer anything more. We want to know what the U.S. position is on several issues. We asked him about the future of the dialogue with the PLO and how it can be resumed. This, because there can be no peace without the PLO. The second question put to Secretary Baker was: What laws will govern the next stage in the peace march? Is it the number of tanks possessed by each side, is it the North-South issue, or is it international law? If the answer is international law, what governs this international law? Is it UN resolutions? Is it Resolutions 242 and 338? We want to know from the United States whether these laws will be referred to. If these laws will be referred to, then we Palestinians certainly can engage in this battle and face the entire world, and we are confident of victory in the end.

But if there are other laws, the picture will look different. There will be another position. So we are awaiting Secretary Baker's reply regarding the laws that will govern the new world order and the laws that will govern the Middle East issue.

[Huda al-Husayni] During your meeting with Baker did you sense that the United States is now really committed to resolving the Palestinian issue?

[Faysal al-Husayni] If I consider the matter on the basis of what Baker said, the answer is "yes." He said that he was committed and that he thought that this was a historic moment. But regrettably he did not answer one question: What will he do if Israel refuses to implement the UN resolutions? He did not answer this question. Although his view was that Israel must implement these resolutions, he did not give a clear answer. I hope that the Arab states will put this question to the United States

and ask it whether or not it is really willing to support the implementation of UN resolutions even if the price of this is Israeli blood.

[Huda al-Husayni] After your meeting with Baker, Palestinian voices demanded that the United States be regarded as your enemy. Have you classified it as such?

[Faysal al-Husayni] The United States announced that it is Israel's strategic ally. And Israel is our enemy. But we Palestinians are ready to negotiate and hold dialogue even with our enemy. We are ready to negotiate and hold a dialogue with Israel, so why should we not hold a dialogue with the United States?

In politics there is nothing called "love" or "hate." There are interests, and we must identify and study these interests and try to adapt them to our principles and thus seek to realize them. Besides, if it is necessary to negotiate with the United States, we are prepared to negotiate. And if it is necessary to negotiate with Israel—as I believe it is—we must negotiate with Israel. But this, within adherence to the proper line, namely, that the Palestinian people must be dealt with as a people, not as a minority, inhabitants of certain areas, or refugees. They must be dealt with as a people who have full rights, including their right to self-determination, the right to establish their independent state, and the right to choose their leadership freely and without any interference from any other power. [passage omitted]

[Huda al-Husayni] You said that you told Secretary Baker that the peace process must be conducted through contacts with the PLO. But some U.S. officials insist that the peace process will not be conducted through contacts with the PLO, on the grounds that it has destroyed its negotiating role!

[Faysal al-Husayni] The United States must realize—as we have told them—that we Palestinians are like any other people: There is no distinction between the people and their country. When we say that there is no difference between us Palestinians and Palestine and that there is no difference between us and the PLO, we might not have enough power to impose a particular solution but we do have enough to halt any solution that does not suit our interests. We have presented this point to the United States very clearly.

[Huda al-Husayni] If you are offered a final solution to your issue, but without the PLO, would you accept or would you insist on a role for it?

[Faysal al-Husayni] I do not understand why a complete solution to our issue should be accepted without the PLO. What is the justification? I do see no justification. If there is a complete solution to our issue, it means that they acknowledge that we are entitled to be like the other peoples and to choose our leadership freely and by ourselves. So if they insist on the PLO's nonexistence, the solution becomes incomplete, on the grounds that it prejudices our will and our freedom to choose. The proper thing is for them to give the full freedom to

choose. Then we will choose whoever we want. But we refuse to allow things to be imposed on us. If the will is incomplete at the beginning of independence, then it is meaningless.

[Huda al-Husayni] You are known as a determined defender of the PLO and its leadership. But 'Arafat said: They want to bring in an alternative young leadership.

[Faysal al-Husayni] I have not heard that said by Yasir 'Arafat. However, everywhere in the world there is always respect for the generation with long experience.

[Huda al-Husayni] Some people are putting you forward for the leadership post. Are you ready to shoulder that responsibility and carry the Palestinian question to safety?

[Faysal al-Husayni] As I said, we live under occupation. And under occupation there is no place for leaderships. There is a place for fighters. The leader who wants to determine his people's destiny must at least know where he will sleep the following night. I am under occupation and unable to determine where I will sleep tomorrow night: at home or in prison? So what kind of leadership can be asked to determine its people's destiny, when it does not its own destiny that very night!

[Huda al-Husayni] Even 'Arafat does not know where he will sleep every night.

[Faysal al-Husayni] He moves from one place to another at his own free will. There is a difference between why he does not know and why I do not know.

[Huda al-Husayni] Some Palestinians inside [the occupied territories] demand that the local leadership be given more powers. Like what?

[Faysal al-Husayni] I do not believe that what is required is to increase powers. We are facing an occupation operation. I believe that we reach operational decisions in a sound way. And our view reaches those outside. But the world deals with us with double and sometimes strange standards. Sometimes they tell us: You inside imposed the idea of meeting with Baker on those outside. At other times they tell us that those inside are not entitled to make decisions. This is due to a misunderstanding of the nature of the relationship between those inside and those outside. The relationship between the inside and outside is organic and involves a kind of controversy. It involves give and take, reappraisal, and an exchange of views, as in any body. There are hands, a head, and legs, but the heart is one, distributing blood to all parts. [passage omitted]

[Huda al-Husayni] Did you read Yasir 'Arafat's recent statements to the Canadian newspaper, THE TORONTO STAR?

[Faysal al-Husayni] I did not read them. I read the REUTER report. I also read the PLO statement saying that President 'Arafat's statements were altered.

[Huda al-Husayni] What would be your view of them if they were not altered?

[Faysal al-Husayni] If they are as they were? As I said, I did not read the full text.

[Huda al-Husayni] On the basis of the REUTER report.

[Faysal al-Husayni] On the basis the REUTER report, I would say that the subject has nothing to do with land concessions or anything of that kind. I believe that the logic that was proposed and altered there was as follows: In accordance with UN resolutions, Israel must withdraw to the 1967 borders, in accordance with Resolution 242. Then we would establish our state on every inch from which Israel withdraws. Thus the Palestinian state would be established within those borders.

Then the Palestinian government and the Israeli Government can sit down together to discuss the borders. And if we talk about borders, that do not any unilateral changing of borders; but borders can be changed on both sides. Whenever the Israelis persist in looking East, we will persist in looking West.

[Huda al-Husayni] What about a demilitarized state?

[Faysal al-Husayni] Do you want my personal opinion?

[Huda al-Husayni] Yes.

[Faysal al-Husayni] I believe that we must not allow anyone to deceive us and let us set up an army for the sake of which we would waste our money on purchasing Phantoms, tanks, and weapons. We need to set up an industry and raise our people's standards. We need to absorb the refugees and we are not prepared to waste our money on purchasing weapons that others would profit from and then destroy when they want to.

[Huda al-Husayni] What is your opinion the reports about some Palestinians' desire to agree to the U.S. demands for an abandonment of the refugees' right to repatriation and the internationalization of Jerusalem?

[Faysal al-Husayni] I have not heard about that. The refugees' right to repatriation is sacrosanct. But the exercise of that right can be negotiated. In other words, how it can be exercised? As is known, that right is represented by repatriation or compensation. We are ready to negotiate how that right can be exercised. But we are not prepared to forfeit that right. As for Jerusalem, East Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state, and we insist on that. The internationalization process is a thorny one, and, if it is to be discussed, we prefer that it is discussed through the Palestinian government, not through a situation preceding that establishment of the state. [passage omitted]

[Huda al-Husayni] Do you believe that the land-for-peace policy will be realized in the end?

[Faysal al-Husayni] That depends largely on the present Israeli Government, which rejects the principle. But if the U.S. Government has the desire, and if the Arab states have the desire to help the intifadah, it is enough for them to put pressure on Washington to force Israel to recognize resolution 242 and this principle. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Opposition Reacts to Election Date Announcement

LD0404091191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2:00 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Following the president's address to the nation on the forthcoming early elections, the date for which was set for 27 June, the political parties did not wait long to declare their positions regarding the content of the president's speech. Colleagues (Souad Abdelli) and (Wahiba Ben Chhab) contacted a number of political parties to record their positions.

First, Kasdi Merbah, leader of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development, said: Concerning the date 27 June—which we heard today on television—we say that Chadli Bendjedid is using the same ways and means to stay in power. He likes to stay in power, and he is using various ways and means and trickery with the parties, because the parties have been complaining about the lack of consultation regarding the election law—the law on the division of constituencies—and regarding the date. We heard today that he has decided on the date. Consequently, this is eventually going to be in the interest of the ruling party and himself only.

As parties, particularly the eight parties, we have denounced this lack of consultation and dialogue. We have asked the concerned parties to meet for consultations. We can see that the president is using the same approach again. As parties, we have to meet immediately and look into how to organize the national general strike on which we agreed at our last meeting, and to ensure that the rights of the parties and of the citizens are protected and respected—because the laws, especially the election law and the law on the division of constituencies, are unconstitutional and unjust and they are in the interest of the ruling power. [passage omitted]

The second position is represented by the opinion of the Democratic Generation Party, as expressed by its First Secretary Sid Ali Hassassi: President Chadli Bendjedid's decision today is not a decision by a president but one by a party leader. We do not believe that the conditions for the credibility of the elections are ("valid"). [passage omitted]

The president carries weight; first of all he is an official and his first duty is to protect the interests of the whole society. We believe that today's decision is one that is in the interest of a party, in the interest of a mentality or an ideology of a particular party [words indistinct].

Ahmed Benkhedda, leader of El Oumma (Nation) Party, said on the subject: The president's speech, specifying 27 June as the election date, it seems to me that he agrees with the law which has been endorsed by the People's National Assembly. [passage omitted]

I would like to take this opportunity to call on the Islamic parties to unite in a rally to face these elections.

The Party of Alliance for Justice and Freedom announced its determination to participate in the elections and make every effort to provide the conditions that will ensure the progress of the election procedure in a true democratic atmosphere. The party's reaction came in a statement released yesterday. The statement publicly announces the party's rejection of the law on the division of constituencies which was endorsed recently by the People's National Assembly. The statement says that the law aims at giving the ruling authority a majority in the elections and it has greatly wronged a number of governorates which do not get the number of constituencies proportionate to their population.

The Social Democratic Party points out in a statement released yesterday that the two laws endorsed by the People's National Assembly concerning the elections and the division of constituencies constitute a decisive turning point in national political life. The statement adds that the Social Democratic Party received with satisfaction some of the amendments to the elections law which respond to the party's demands, but it believes that the reduction in the number of the candidates in the second round substantially limits the democratic prospects of the law and ushers in a polarized situation that entails great difficulties for the country. [passage omitted]

Ghozali Denies Dismissal of Ambassador to Iraq

LD0404143191 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1015 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers, 4 Apr—Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghozali yesterday categorically denied reports published by the independent newspaper AL-WATAN, which said that Algerian Ambassador to Baghdad al-'Arabi Silhasan had been dismissed from his post because he left the embassy during the air raids on Baghdad, and took refuge in Tehran, without permission from Algerian central authorities.

The London-based newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published the reports a week ago, but they were published in AL-WATAN only the day before yesterday, Tuesday, without mentioning the source, thereby giving the impression that the source was in the Algerian capital. The Algerian Foreign Ministry [words indistinct]. The Algerian Foreign Ministry said that these reports slander a senior state official and former struggler.

Egypt

Somali Prime Minister Arrives in Cairo 3 Apr

NC0304144291 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Somali Prime Minister Artek Ghalib Omar arrived in Cairo today on a three-day visit to Egypt.

Upon his arrival, Omar said that the objective of his visit to Egypt is to explain the latest developments in Somalia and

to hold talks with Egyptian officials on these developments. He added that he will ask for food and medical aid from Egypt. He added that the Gulf states he has visited so far have responded positively regarding aid to Somalia.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who received the Somali prime minister, said that Egypt seeks to achieve stability in Somalia and to bolster its national unity.

Received by Sidqi

NC0304181791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will receive Somali Prime Minister Arteh Ghalib Omar during his current visit to Cairo. This announcement came in a statement by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi following a meeting with the Somali prime minister today.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs attended the meeting.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that during this meeting, the Somali prime minister explained the political and economic situation in Somalia in the wake of the civil war. He said that the situation there is complicated and that the Somali prime minister seeks Egypt's help in achieving reconciliation among the parties in the political scene in Somalia.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0404145991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—This morning President Husni Mubarak received Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib and his accompanying delegation at the presidential headquarters. The meeting was attended by Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The Somali prime minister stated after the meeting that he conveyed to President Mubarak the fraternal and sincere greetings of new Somali President Mohamed Ali Mahdi.

He added that he listened to advice from President Mubarak because he is an Arab leader with influence and substance. In this framework, we briefed the president on the current situation in Somalia and the problems we are suffering there.

We also informed the president of the grave need of the Somali people, whom we now consider refugees in their own country, for foodstuffs, fuel, and many more things.

Omar added that he discussed with the president the subject of national reconciliation among the various sides and fronts in Somalia. He described his talks with the president as fruitful and said that we found a positive response from the president to all we asked for.

In his statement, the Somali prime minister saluted the Egyptian people and said they are a great people. He also

saluted the other Arab people and called on them to forget the events of the past and to unite their ranks. He also called on the concerned in Somalia to unite their ranks to reach a satisfactory solution.

Dr. Butrus Ghali stated that he will continue his talks with the Somali prime minister to discuss all the efforts needed to realize stability in Somalia.

The Somali prime minister is expected to leave Cairo the day after tomorrow, Saturday. He had arrived with his delegation on Wednesday evening.

'Abd-al-Majid: Palestinian Autonomy Not 'Viable'

PM0404134091 London ITV Television Network
in English 1930 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, by presenter Sir John Thompson in Cairo; date not given—from the "Dispatches" program; recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Majid] What Israel is trying to achieve is its security, and this is a legitimate request. But to pretend that for her security she is to occupy Arab territories—I don't think this is acceptable. So here, I think what President Bush said in his speech at the joint session of the Congress on 7 March—territory for peace—this is very logical. If you would like to have peace, you should relinquish territory, because you cannot have your cake and eat it.

[Thompson] Do you think that the Camp David agreement in any way forms a model for a future agreement?

['Abd-al-Majid] Camp David was not fulfilled, because at that moment, if you remember, the insistence of the Israeli side was on self-rule or autonomy, and that was the end of it. In our opinion, autonomy should have led to the Palestinians' deciding on their own future.

[Thompson] So now you're deeply distrustful of autonomy, and in fact you're rejecting it?

['Abd-al-Majid] I don't think it's a viable system. The Israelis should know quite well that this should not be the end of the operation. It is the right of the Palestinians to decide about their own future. [passage omitted]

[Thompson] I asked 'Abd-al-Majid whether the Arabs would insist that Israel had to leave all the occupied territories.

['Abd-al-Majid] If we are speaking about security, not expansion, then we can have security arrangements that can really guarantee the security of Israel, which I say is a legitimate concern. But it is an illegitimate concern if they think they can occupy the Arab territories, the Golan Heights, West Bank, Gaza, South Lebanon. They can get much in return if they have peace with their neighbors—not only with the Palestinians.

Ties With Arab States That Supported Iraq Viewed

NC0404144491 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
31 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "So That We Will Not Be Bitten by the Same Serpents"]

[Text] Some might claim that the disgraceful stand taken by some Arab leaders during the Gulf crisis and their blessing of the crime of invading and occupying Kuwait for reasons whose secrets are only now being revealed is merely a point of view and part of freedom of opinion. They add that every leader has his own personal opinion on the events taking place. This is a disputable and debatable theory even if that were the situation or if those stands truly stemmed from a conviction or logical reasoning and were not merely the result of an earlier conspiracy.

The gang of four, who stood by the Iraqi ruler, encouraged him, and defended his great crime against the right of the entire Arab nation, could have limited their efforts to this. However, the disgusting part is that the tragedy of the occupation of Kuwait provided them the opportunity to bring out the deep grudges they hold against Egypt. They competed over attacking and slandering Egypt; organizing demonstrations against it; and attacking its institutions, embassies, and citizens, despite all the aid Egypt provided their countries with during the dark times.

Egypt has been subjected to shameless attacks from the governments of Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, and Jordan, and from the chief of the PLO. These stands only reveal what has been festering in the hearts of those leaders toward Egypt, despite all the kisses and hugs with which they used to receive President Mubarak. Their stands on the crime of invading Kuwait removes the mask of this hypocrisy and shows the reality of their hidden feelings towards Egypt and its people.

Are those the ones who today are asking us to open a new page with them to retrieve Arab unity?

How can we feel at ease with the likes of these leaders after their true image and intentions have been revealed?

Opposition Paper Urges U.S. Gulf Pullout

PM0404160591 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
26 Mar 91 p 6

[Adil Husayn article: "Muslims, Arabs: The United States Has Drafted The Most Dangerous Security Council Resolution, So Wake Up!"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We said from the very first day of the Gulf crisis: Do not trust the United States and, whatever your opinion of Saddam Husayn, do not jump from the frying pan into the fire. Our position was not mere talk. It was based on definite contemporary historical facts which makes us immune from error. [Koranic verse omitted]

To all the sincere people who were misled by the American slogan about the unconditional "liberation of Kuwait," which has resulted in all the damage we have mentioned, we say today: Do not be deceived again by the U.S. slogan about overthrowing Saddam Husayn. We spoke about the U.S. scenario in the previous edition and we said that the aim was not to strengthen the Islamic and patriotic forces but to exhaust the conflicting forces in endless infighting while the United States holds the balance, so that if the Kurds got the upper hand in the north beyond the permissible limit General Schwartzkopf would allow Iraqi aircraft to intervene. Instructions have been issued to Turkey and Syria to reduce their aid to the Kurds. We see the same kind of thing happening in the south, where the U.S. forces in Iraq are leading and following up the entire operation. When there were signs of Iranian interference, they issued direct warnings and the U.S. forces took up positions along the Euphrates to demonstrate the U.S. intention to stop Iran by force if it tried to settle the conflict.

The slogan calling for "Saddam Husayn's downfall" actually has the same objective as the "Kuwait liberation" slogan. The aim remains the political, military, economic, and social destruction of Iraq. The social destruction is not only restricted to the sectarian war. It goes beyond that to the point of humiliation, feet-kissing, and implementation of all that is requested. They want the Iraqi people to be in their hands like a monkey on a chain, dancing to its master's tune. They want to make an example of those Muslim people as a lesson to anyone who tries to say no to the United States, and they want to prevent a repetition of mutiny by any nation. Once the Iraqi people reach the required level of humiliation and disintegration, and once they agree to forfeit their honor and sovereignty, they will then choose a suitable ruler for the new phase, to their own specifications.

That is no longer a secret. All last week we saw it published openly in the names of senior U.S. officials. It was included in the dangerous draft resolution submitted by the United States to the Security Council on the declaration of an official cease-fire in the Gulf. The most dangerous thing about that resolution is that it links lifting (partially, not wholly) the stifling economic sanctions to the destruction of Iraqi missiles and chemical and biological weapons over a considered period not exceeding 90 days, during which the war of attrition under U.S. leadership would, of course, continue in Iraq and the Gulf to prevent Iraqi objections or protests. The U.S. draft resolution does not commit the United States to withdraw its forces in return.

We say it out loud here: Arabs and Muslims, you must rise and unite against that resolution. The Iraqi missiles are not something that concerns Iraq only. They are an Arab and Islamic asset against Israel, and they are our way to the removal of the Zionist enemy's weapons of mass destruction. We must insist on a fair deal and we must insist that the removal of the Iraqi missiles is done in the framework of a general plan for the whole region so that Israel will not be the only striking force in the region. We must not allow the enemies to bring Iraq to its knees to a point that would force it to agree to the

destruction of its missiles at the low price of bread alone. It would be shameful for us and a blow to our security and future if we accepted that.

Whatever people think of him, Saddam Husayn does not concern us. All individuals and rulers disappear either through death or removal. The Americans themselves do not care about Saddam as a person, and do not be surprised if they agree to his continuing in power if he accepts their terms. What concerns us and the Americans is Iraq's future and role. We want Iraq to remain strong and to be an Arab asset and they want the opposite. That is unquestionably the issue.

Once again, let us not fall victim to the hostile designs. Those who hate Saddam should not think that they have the same objective as the Americans, because what those of us who are sincere want is quite different from what the Americans want.

We should say at the top of our voices, regardless of our opinion of Saddam, that the U.S. forces must withdraw immediately from Iraqi territory out of respect for international legitimacy and the international law they keep talking about.

The blockade of starvation and humiliation against the Iraqi people should be lifted immediately and unconditionally. What is happening is, in my view, unprecedented.

On the matter of starvation, I do not think it should be restricted to simply calling on our governments to do something. Popular organizations should collect donations and organize their delivery. [passage omitted]

Labor Party Leader Declines 'Submission' to U.S.

PM0404142791 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
26 Mar 91 p 4

[Hani 'Amarah and Khalid Yunis report: "At Party Meeting Shukri Declares: Egypt Has Lost All Bargaining Cards for Settling Arab Issues Because of its Submission to the United States"]

[Excerpts] The month of Ramadan has arrived, with its spiritual heavenly bliss bringing tranquility and some sadness to one's heart.

Ramadan comes this time as we live through one of the episodes in the calamity that has befallen the Arab and Islamic nations with the destruction of a major part of Arab and Islamic power and the presence of thousands of invading forces on our land. The positive aspect of the catastrophe is perhaps the fact that it has revived the spirit of jihad in many sons of the Islamic nation.

It was in this atmosphere that the party's weekly meeting was held last Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the meeting, [Labor Party leader] struggler Ibrahim Shukri stressed the importance of mending the rift in Arab ranks and of strengthening ties between Egypt and its Arab and Islamic sisters.

He emphasized that the party was gearing its efforts toward that objective, as it did before when Arab ranks were divided after the ill-omened Camp David treaty. [passage omitted]

The great struggler spoke about the danger of the continued presence of foreign forces in the Gulf. He affirmed that Egypt could have tipped the scales if it had stuck to its pioneering role in the region.

Struggler Shukri added: We do not oppose for the sake of opposition, nor do we do so just to go against the government. Our attitude is based on firm principles and is not a matter of alignment with any individual such as, for example, Saddam Husayn.

Shukri said: The Iraqi people have been hit and the Iraqi Army destroyed, and that is what we totally reject.

Referring to the Palestinian question, Shukri said that any promises made by the United States and its allies to settle the issue were feeble promises. Bush, he said, had promised that the Palestinian question would be given the same priority and enthusiasm as Kuwait's liberation, but what we are witnessing now are fundamental differences between the United States and its allies on that issue.

The Labor Party leader also spoke about the Iraqi people's suffering because of shortages of food and medicines resulting from the war of extermination waged against them by the United States which, he stressed, was proceeding with its plans to control the Arab region. Its current plan, he said, is to establish bases on the territories of the Gulf states.

He expressed regret that the Gulf regimes have welcomed the U.S. presence on their territories.

The great struggler also warned against Israeli designs regarding Nile water, maintaining that Israel wanted Nile water for the Negev in return for settling the Palestinian question. He said that Israel was exerting pressure for Nile water by exploiting Ethiopia's threats to build dams at the sources of the Nile.

Struggler Ibrahim Shukri said that these threats and dangers were regrettable because Egypt had nothing to bargain with, having reached the point of maximum submission to the United States.

He then spoke about Egyptian-Arab relations, stressing that when he talked about these relations he meant relations between peoples, not regimes. [passage omitted]

Commentary Questions Israel's Desire for Peace

NC0404191191 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Matters About the Middle East Problems Must Be Very Clear"]

[Text] As it is understood, the present stage is one of preparations for a serious start to the process of resolving the Middle East problem and laying down the basis for a

comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region. Needless to say, the inevitable achievement of this ambitious and remote objective faces many difficulties and obstacles.

A search of these difficulties and obstacles reveals that most are artificial. It also reveals the urgent need for the clarity of all ideas, proposals, and initiatives on the situation in the region. For example, immediately after the end of the Gulf war Israel officially came forward with the notion of holding what it termed a regional conference to resolve the Palestinian issue and end the Arab-Israeli conflict. The proposal was ambiguous when Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made his statement. When President Husni Mubarak was asked during the joint news conference he held with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad whether holding such a conference could be acceptable, he said: This is something not clear to us. He stressed the basic fact that the participation of the UN Security Council's permanent members, Israel, and the main parties in the confrontation—Syria, Egypt, the Palestinians, Jordan, and Lebanon—will ensure the success of any conference.

Thus matters must be clear. There are many signs which indicate that the aim of such a proposal is to rule out any role for the United Nations in resolving the issue. The role of the international organization, as represented by the Security Council permanent members who can reject binding resolutions, is an absolute necessity for reaching a practical and applicable solution. The Gulf crisis experience and the way it was internationally tackled within the UN framework will always remain an example to be followed.

We list these self-evident facts in order to reiterate the need to have matters at this preparatory stage be very clear. There are many statements nowadays by Israeli officials, led by Prime Minister Shamir. For example, he has asked the Arab countries, the United States, and Europe to help select representatives for the Palestinian people who will accept the Israeli reality and agree to a compromise with Israel. He is thus invalidating an indispensable basis for reaching any solution. By this we mean the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, which is recognized by international

legitimacy worldwide. Yet Shamir is not content with this. He is even asking the Arab countries, the United States, and Europe to participate in invalidating this right of self-determination, which is the cornerstone of international legitimacy and democracy, both for countries and individuals.

Another example is another statement by the Israeli prime minister in which he said that if the Arabs agree to end the state of war with Israel, it would be possible to advance toward achieving other important objectives, foremost of which is the elimination of conventional and nonconventional weapons in the region. But he did not refer at all to the basic problem, namely Israel's occupation of Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese territories. The questions that must be addressed to him should be: Will Israel agree to withdraw from these territories? Will it agree to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination?

The settlement of the Palestinian issue, the end the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the establishment of a just peace in the region depend on the answers to these very clear questions. One of the facts that are very well known to those concerned with the Middle East affairs, and the entire world is concerned with it, is that there are no longer any threats to Israel with the destruction of Iraq's aggressive military might. Even before the destruction of this might, which was witnessed by the world, nothing was threatening Israel. The superpowers, with the United States and the entire international community at the forefront, would not allow any harm to Israel's security or existence. Israel is well aware of this fact. The issue then is not one of Israel's security or its existence. That might have been the issue during the first years of the establishment of the Israeli state. The issue has become one of an Israeli expansion and aggressive Israeli might that completely ignores international legitimacy and constitutes grave dangers to the peoples and countries in the region.

If Israel wants to underline the credibility of its desire and endeavor for peace, Israel must first—and this is the first thing that the world must ask it to do without beating around the bush—accept the principle of swapping land for peace. Anything else would be merely useless procrastination and deceit. The Arab peoples are not so naive anymore as to be deceived by anyone.

Kuwait

Electricity, Water Supply To Return to 'Normal'

LD0404153591 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1300 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The minister of electricity and water, Dr. Hamud al-Ruqba, has announced that Kuwait will enjoy electricity and water in a normal way after 'Id al-Fitr. He pointed out that on average water is now pumped four days a week, and would become continuous in three weeks.

In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAIT, Dr. al-Ruqba stressed that the al-Zawr electrical power and water desalination station, which has the capacity to cover the requirements of all regions of Kuwait, has resumed its full operational capacity after the operation of two units were resumed at the western Doha and southern al-Shu'bayah stations.

He said that all the stations were capable of supplying all the regions of Kuwait with electricity and water, and of covering over 80 percent of it. [sentence as heard] He pointed out that some regions of Kuwait would continue to be supplied with electricity by generators. He attributed that to the extent of destruction to the electricity transformers inflicted by the Iraqi invasion forces in the Da'iyyah and Bayan regions.

The minister of electricity and water said that water desalination stations had begun, since yesterday, to produce 47 million gallons of drinking water, and that the quantity was to be increased gradually on a daily basis.

Dr. al-Ruqba stressed that the threat by the oil spill to the desalination and electricity stations had lapsed, and that there was no longer any fear of marine pollution caused by the oil spill in the Gulf waters. He explained that the oil spill had moved away from Kuwait's waters, and that adequate precautions had been taken by the ministry to avoid any possible effect of that spill.

Minister Stresses Egyptians' Contracts Safe

PM0304162591 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic
29 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Praising What Egypt Has Offered, Al-'Awadi Says: Coalition States' Nationals To Be Exempted From Decision To Cancel Contracts"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, has said that the statements attributed to him were misunderstood by the Egyptian media services. In an interview with AL-ANBA' he said that the question of terminating the contracts of the non-Kuwaitis who were working in the state during the occupation period was a natural thing and not an action aimed against anyone. He pointed out that the law is clear on that point and governs all. He emphasized that

the objective of the announcement was to eliminate the workers who cooperated with the occupier and also to reduce surplus manpower.

He added that the coalition states' nationals will be exempted from that, especially the Egyptians. This is in view of Egypt's honorable position at the level of leadership and people and its effective participation in the liberation of Kuwait. He pointed out that Egyptian manpower, especially technical personnel, will have a notable role in rebuilding Kuwait. And that many of the service ministries have actually started to call up Egyptians working for them in the fields of electricity, health, and Kuwaiti airlines. He also said that the next stage will include the return of teachers, university professors, and other ministry employees.

With regard to the salaries of non-Kuwaiti employees since 2 August, Dr. al-'Awadi said that a decision concerning those who were outside Kuwait during the invasion will be taken after the new cabinet is formed. As for those who were inside the country during the occupation period, they will be paid rewards for their work at the important ministries. That applies to doctors, electricians, communications technicians, and others.

With regard to the private sector, Dr. al-'Awadi said that the matter is left to company and establishment owners in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

Minister Outlines Planned Changes to Media

PM0304152391 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
27 Mar-2 Apr 91 pp 50, 51

[Interview with Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, outgoing Kuwaiti information minister, by Hani Naqshabandi in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Naqshabandi] With regard to the Kuwaiti newspapers that have been published outside Kuwait since the occupation period, what is their fate and what will become of the newspapers that have been published inside the country?

[Al-Ya'qub] With regard to SAWT AL-KUWAYT, it may continue to be published abroad as an international newspaper along the lines of the international newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. As for the other newspapers, they must return to Kuwait, though the obstacle now is attributable to material and technical considerations, nothing more.

[Naqshabandi] What about the publication law that existed before the invasion? Will it continue as it is?

[Al-Ya'qub] We will reexamine that law. And I believe that the Kuwait press law grants the press more freedom than any other laws. The press is free and the proof is its widespread distribution. But it must be known that one person's freedom ends where others' freedom begins.

This is a rule from which we must not depart. We should not harm or hurt anyone at any level.

[Naqshabandi] Will the Iraqi media be dealt with in the present stage on that basis?

[Al-Ya'qub] Our problem is not with the Iraqi people, who have suffered a great deal from their regime. So we are not against that people. Our position is against Saddam Husayn and his regime, not his people. [passage omitted]

[Naqshabandi] Will you increase the number of radio and television broadcasting stations?

[Al-Ya'qub] With regard to radio, there are two programs at present. And their broadcasting will be enhanced. And their organs and those in charge of them will be developed.

As for television, there is a plan to have four major channels: two Kuwaiti, one for the Egyptian satellite channel, and one for the American news channel CNN. There is also a future plan to set up an integrated television network with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

[Naqshabandi] What about the Kuwaiti radios abroad? Will they continue?

[Al-Ya'qub] At present these radios will continue their work as it is until our house has been organized internally. We are waiting for some equipment in order to develop our capabilities in that field. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Trade Agreement Ratified With USSR 31 Mar

NC3103113491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Doha, 31 Mar (WAKH)—The ratification documents of a trade, economic, and technical cooperation agreement between Qatar and the Soviet Union were exchanged in Doha today.

The agreement is aimed at consolidating friendship and developing trade, economic, and technical cooperation between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual interests.

The agreement was signed in Moscow on 27 November by Qatari Minister of Trade and Economy Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani and Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev.

Saudi Arabia

Press Views Current Middle East Issues

LD0304190291 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 3 Apr 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Riyadh, April 3, SPA—A Saudi English newspaper today said the conclusions emerging from the al-Asad-Mubarak summit in Cairo are a pointer to the future course the Arabs are set to take on Middle East issue, particularly Palestine.

"Half-baked solutions are not the goal of the Arabs. Nor should there be any dilly-dallying on the modalities. Questions regarding the agenda and participants should be resolved first. The conference should be a forum for a serious exchange of views and findings and adopting a common ground, exercises that are painful ones. If such a tack is adopted, solutions will be found, although few are optimistic about reaching them within a brief span of time," RIYAD DAILY said.

It described the Arab attitude as realistic and said the Arab demand is only for respecting the legitimate rights of freedom of the Palestinians.

"The days to come are bound to witness hectic, diplomatic activity towards healing the wounds on the Arab psyche. This is a most sacred goal, the accomplishment of which will lead to the emancipation of the Arab people," RIYAD DAILY said.

The Arabic newspaper AL-YAWM said recent events in the Gulf region with their serious repercussions all over the Arab world has taken a terrible toll, the long-term effects of which seem destined to wreak continuous havoc world-wide for many years to come.

"Arab relations in general have been split wide open, thereby exposing the emptiness of Arab slogans that have proved counter-productive for so very long," it added.

"Indeed, Arab relations will not long endure their excruciating status quo—but will, rather, in the fullness of time, map out a new itinerary that will contribute greatly to the momentous task of setting itself aright," AL-YAWM said.

"Of very great significance, also, is the wise attitude of the custodian of the two holy mosques who has dealt in an ideal way with Arab affairs as a whole—and has provided the Arab world in its entirety with his mature advice and faithful guidance."

For its part, AL-JAZIRAH newspaper said Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in his address to the Council of Ministers yesterday, was succinctly expressing the conviction of all true Arabs and Muslims everywhere with regard to the unique faith of Islam in all its power and glory; the faith which alone had led

committed Arab countries to cast in their lot with the kingdom in its righteous defence of all things.

"Thus the just confrontation by the kingdom and its staunch helpers ended in total victory for all those champions the cause of right, while the end of those embarked on injustice was marked by abysmal failure and absolutely degrading loss all round. The catastrophic losses entailed by all who supported brutal, naked aggressor have not only brought untold harm throughout the Arab world, but, also around the entire globe.

"Moves, however, are now seriously afoot by the forces of right and justice—led by the kingdom—to bring about a fulsome reconciliation between all Arab and Muslim countries.

"In this way, a new beginning will dawn on the region and, hopefully, the antagonisms of old will be superseded by the advent of peace and goodwill," it said.

Kingdom Warns Against 'Hostile Campaign'

LD0404044891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2325 GMT
3 Apr 91

[Text] Jeddah, 3 Apr (SPA)—An authoritative source made a statement today to SPA in which he said: In following Arab information organs, we have noticed some of them have continued their hostile campaign against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia despite the noble Islamic initiative on the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, in which he issued his gracious instructions to the Ministry of Information to refrain from replying to information campaigns emanating from a number of Arab countries; a matter which leads one to believe that some of them have yet to understand the noble aim behind the beloved king's ethical step, which was appreciated by everyone.

The source added: Therefore, the Kingdom would like to warn anew those who have continued their information campaigns of the repercussion of continuing such methods. In case of necessity, we will face up to such campaigns as warranted, in order to put right what they have been trying to mislead their people with.

We hope that henceforth some of those abovementioned will listen and understand what we have said and meant.

New Saudi Political Group Announced in Beirut

NC2903102091 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
27 Mar 91 p 7

[Text] The Democratic National Grouping [al-tajammu' al-watani al-dimocrati] in Saudi Arabia distributed a statement in Beirut yesterday on the establishment of the grouping and its objectives.

The statement says: Out of a sense of our historic responsibility, we announce to all the factions of our people the establishment of the Democratic National

Grouping, which comes in response to our country's political development and the dire need for establishing a grouping that will take upon itself the task of bringing about democracy in our country, protecting human rights within it, consolidating independence, and developing our country so that we can join the ranks of modern countries based on the respect for laws and human values.

The grouping called for the election of a constituent assembly to formulate a permanent constitution for the country that will safeguard the peoples rights and public liberties, regulate the public life of society and state institutions on a modern basis, and enact modern laws based on the Islamic shari'a.

The grouping called for the rejection of foreign hegemony, for the adoption of a nationalist and independent foreign policy, and for the judicious use of oil resources in the long term.

Group Charges Violence Used on Demonstrators

NC2903184791 Paris AFP in English 1824 GMT
29 Mar 91

[Text] Beirut, March 29 (AFP)—A human rights group Friday accused Saudi Arabian security forces of using violence to put down a protest in the mostly Shiite eastern province of the kingdom, injuring around 50 people.

The demonstration took place last Saturday in al-Qatif, on the Gulf coast north of Dhahran, said the International Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula.

Sadiq Muhammad, head of the committee's Saudi branch, said around 50 people were injured when 1,500 soldiers used cattle prods and firearms against 3,000 supporters of a Shiite anti-government revolt in Iraq.

In a statement distributed here, Mr. Muhammad said the committee was citing eyewitness accounts. There was no confirmation of the reports.

The committee, based in London, has issued several reports over the past two years on the alleged harassment and arbitrary arrest of Shiite opposition figures in Arab Gulf states, which are ruled by Sunni families.

United Arab Emirates

General Schwarzkopf Departs after Visit, Meetings

NC0404201691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Apr (WAKH)—General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. Central Command in the Gulf and commander of the allied troops in Operation Desert Storm for the liberation of Kuwait, left Abu Dhabi this evening following a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] during which he was received by

UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and UAE Vice President His Highness Shaykh Rashid Al Maktum.

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf was received by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum.

During his visit, the U.S. commander, on behalf of the U.S. President, bestowed medals of merit on Staff Major

General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; Staff Major General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy chief of staff; and Major General Shaykh Biti Bin-Maktum Al Maktum, deputy commander of the central military zone for administrative and logistical affairs, in recognition of their roles in Operation Desert Storm and of their wise command of the UAE troops. The medals were also in appreciation of their nobility, honorable military service, and ideal personal contributions which made them an asset to UAE and allied troops.

Saddam Chairs RCC Meeting on Return to 'Stability'
*NC0504085591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT
5 Apr 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

The RCC listened to a report by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim on the return of security and stability to towns and villages in northern Iraq following the rapid and total collapse of the bands of looters, thieves, and agents, and the Kurdish masses' joy over their salvation from these bands, their solidarity with President Saddam Husayn, and their determination to chase these bands everywhere.

The RCC also discussed the political situation and developments in the region and in the world.

The meeting was attended by the foreign minister and the minister of culture and information.

RCC Issues Statement

*NC0504105791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT
5 Apr 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Iraq today declared that the acts of sedition, sabotage, and rioting in all Iraqi towns have been completely crushed.

A statement issued by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] today said that the authority of law, order, security, and stability has returned to all towns in Iraq.

The statement added that this feat, achieved by putting down the sedition and the traitors who came from across the border, affirms the genuineness of Iraq and the Iraqis and their ability to confront plots and sedition.

The RCC has decided to pardon all Iraqi Kurds in the autonomous region for any behavior that they could be accountable for by law—except crimes of murder, violations of honor, and theft—that took place during the riots and acts of treachery.

The RCC clarified that this pardon, which bolsters the national humanitarian course of Iraq's triumphant march, includes in general the Kurds in the autonomous region. It also includes members and counselors of the national defense regiments, members of special detachments, and members of the internal security and armed forces.

The RCC affirmed that after putting an end to the sedition and rebellion and restoring security, stability, and the state's authority, the time has come to begin building the new stage, which will certainly have problems and which will demand costly sacrifices.

The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Statement issued by the RCC.

We thank God Almighty during this noble month. We announce to the sons of the great Iraqi people the news of the complete crushing of acts of sedition, sabotage, and rioting in all towns of Iraq. The latest feat has been the crushing of the state of rebellion and sabotage in the dear town of al-Sulaymaniyah.

The authority of law, order, security, and stability has returned to all towns in Iraq. The lives, honor, and property of the Iraqis have been saved from the transgression, looting, arson, and destruction which afflicted them during the black days of the sedition and which were unprecedented in our history.

On 16 March, leader President Saddam Husayn declared that the criminal sedition in the southern towns had been crushed. With the help of God, the state has now completely crushed the other page of the sedition in the dear northern part of Iraq.

The enemies and the spiteful ones have described the acts of murder, rape, sabotage, looting, arson, and destruction in the southern and northern towns as an uprising [intifadah], and have given it false descriptions. However, the vigilant Iraqi people, who have experience in life, who behave like men should behave, and who lived the experiments of real and genuine revolutions—above all the great 17-30 July revolution—have exposed this falsehood. They have also exposed the criminal plot, its perpetrators, and treacherous and hostile forces which were behind it. It was no coincidence that these abominable acts, which are untypical of the Iraqis and of the traditions of their national struggle, began during the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on Iraq.

All reports and information have confirmed that the plans for the sedition coincided with preparations for the treacherous aggression that was coordinated with the foreign pillars of this aggression and with a number of regimes in the region. This has been noted in the historic speech of leader President Saddam Husayn on 16 March. The planning also took place while the country from north to south and east to west was being subjected to aggression from 30 states, and while all our cities and villages were bleeding as result of the brutal aggression aimed against all of Iraq, all of its people, and against the lives of all Iraqis and their property and what they had built over decades with sweat and creativity.

At this particular point in time, hordes of rancorous traitors bearing fake Iraq identity cards infiltrated the country to spread destruction, terrorism, vandalism, and looting in a number of southern Iraqi cities and villages, assisted by misled mobs, primarily in al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, Karbala', al-Najaf, and al-Hillah. Those treacherous traitors attacked some isolated army barracks, as well as units withdrawing under enemy fire. They seized weapons and materiel and set public properties ablaze. They looted state headquarters, schools, hospitals, citizens' homes, and were involved in dishonorable acts. They even set fire to civil records, including ownership, marriage, and inheritance contracts at state

departments. They also used cowardly and treacherous means to kill some state and party officials, officers, and citizens in those cities.

Our country, which has been the target of an imperialist-Atlantist-Zionist aggression, has been the target of another invasion similar to Hulagu's invasion of Baghdad in 1258. As his excellency said in the same speech: When the hordes of sedition entered our cities in the south from across the border, at the same time armed elements from the same place entered several villages and towns in the North. Just as the rancorous elements raised the slogans of sectarian division in the southern cities, the elements which entered the northern cities raised the slogan of national division to achieve the same despicable purpose. They carried out similar acts of terrorism, sabotage, revenge, murder, looting, and burning.

It has become completely evident that the origin and purpose of the plan of infiltration into some southern and northern areas were the same: namely, to destroy and partition Iraq, spread anarchy and ruin, and subject Iraq to the will of the foreigner. May their actions be frustrated.

O glorious Iraqis, in the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: "And (the unbelievers) plotted and planned, and God, too, planned, and the best of planners is God." [Koranic verse]

The achievement that was made by ending the sedition and destroying the traitors who came from across the border confirms the genuineness of Iraq and the Iraqis, and confirms their ability to face ordeals and resist conspiracies. Iraq will survive [words indistinct] with God's help.

This achievement affirms the destruction of the backbone of the most serious episode of the conspiracy that targeted Iraq. After the treacherous U.S.-Atlantic aggression against our dear country and the tribulations caused by the aggressors, the enemies of God and Iraq sought to turn this unified, secure, and lofty country into another Lebanon, to be enmeshed and crushed by sectarian, religious, and racial conflicts. However, despite the ordeal caused by the hostile alliance, Iraq proved that it is stronger than the conspiracy and conspirators—in spite of all the resources they gathered, the schemes they hatched, and the unparalleled propaganda campaigns they launched.

Therefore, dear Iraqis, we deserve to feel joy and pride over our country's safety and its emergence from this sedition, unified and secure, and "God willing, the doors of the future" will be open to our country.

O glorious Iraqis, the leader president said in his speech on 16 March: Today, after the sedition and rebellion have been crushed, and security, stability, and the state authority have been restored, the time has come to begin building the pillars of the new stage, which will have no lack of difficulties and will require precious sacrifices. Our people, whose history goes back 6,000 years, are capable, after transcending the crisis, of opening the horizons of a prosperous

future with their great potential and limitless resources as they roll up their sleeves and cudgel their brains to kindle the flame of building and construction.

The Iraqis, who are genuine in their loyalty to their homeland and are interested in Iraq's independence, dignity, progress, and prosperity, will find in the institutions and formulas of the new stage a free and constructive vehicle for contributing to achieving the pride of Iraq and the Iraqis, their interests, security, and stability and to building a democratic society based on the Constitution, law, institutions, and a multiparty system.

O dear Iraqis, this is our program for the future. Despite the treacherous and conspiratorial plans that have been and are being prepared against us—including what has happened and is happening at the council of oppression and oppressors, which is falsely called the Security Council—we are confident of the future, which, God willing, will be bright, prosperous, and strong, as have been the most pages of the history of our noble country.

Greetings to all men in the state institutions, in the armed forces, and in the security and police departments. Greetings to all good Kurds and Arabs from the sons of great Iraq, who courageously and devotedly participated in crushing the sedition and restoring security, stability, and the authority of law to all parts of the country.

O beloved Iraqis; O Iraqi Kurdish citizens: because the Kurdish issue, with all its known complications, has become intertwined with our Iraqi life, and in order to continue to be able to differentiate between various trends, positions, and individuals in a manner that will serve great Iraq and bolster the human and nationalist course of our victorious march, we have decided to grant amnesty to the Iraqi Kurds in the autonomous region regarding actions that are otherwise punishable by law—excluding the crimes of premeditated murder, violations of honor, and theft—that took place in the circumstances surrounding the incidents of riots and treason.

The amnesty applies in general to the Kurds in the autonomous region. It also encompasses the personnel of the special regiments, the internal security, and the armed forces. Upon the return of any of the latter to the national fold, that person will be given his full rights and allowed to perform his duties in accordance with the law. All government bodies, including the armed forces, are called upon to abide by that decision and provide all necessary assistance for those to who are affected by it and are inside Iraq, and to continue to provide the same assistance for two weeks to those who are affected by it but who are outside of Iraq.

Saddam Meets With Top Army Commanders 4 April
NC0504125891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT
5 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—President and Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, met yesterday with 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice

chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander in chief of the armed forces; Staff General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas, minister of defense; and Husayn Kamal Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization.

The meeting was attended by members of the Armed Forces General Command.

Interior Minister on Foreign Role in Kurdish Revolt

NC0404151191 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Nicosia, April 4 (AFP)—Iraqi Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid on Thursday accused the British, German and Israeli intelligence services of having helped to plan the Kurdish revolt which followed the Gulf war.

"The English, the German intelligence service and (Israeli) Mossad held several meetings with the agents Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani," he said, quoted by AL-JUMHURIYA newspaper.

Mr. Talabani and Mr. Barzani head the two main Iraqi Kurdish rebel groups.

Mr. al-Majid, who was among the Iraqi officials in charge of crushing the Kurdish and Shiite revolts that erupted in the wake of the Gulf war, gave no dates or venues for the meetings.

The foreign intelligence services advised the Kurdish rebel chiefs on how to mount the revolt, he said, while renewing charges that Tehran was also implicated in the month-long uprising. [passage omitted]

'Izzat Ibrahim Holds Meeting in Al-Ta'mim

NC0404173191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, visited al-Ta'mim Governorate this morning accompanied by Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization. Ibrahim met with Rashid Hasan al-Majid, the governor of al-Ta'mim Governorate.

During the meeting, Ibrahim emphasized the need to carry out President Saddam Husayn's instructions on providing all kinds of essential goods and essential commodities to citizens in the governorate. He noted the importance of rebuilding what was destroyed by the imperialist-Zionist aggression and the criminal acts committed by the gangs of agency and crime in the city.

The RCC vice chairman earlier heard a detailed briefing from the governor on steps taken within the past few days to secure the people's requirements and essential needs and to reconstruct the basic utilities and production centers that were destroyed by the scoundrels of

agent hoodlums and saboteurs. The governor emphasized the people's readiness to make sacrifices to improve their town to remove the traces of destruction and acts of sabotage.

Trade Minister Holds News Conference on Food Supply

NC0404124791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih today held a news conference attended by correspondents of international television networks, news agencies, and newspapers as well as INA and Baghdad television.

During the conference, the minister reviewed his ministry's plan and measures to ensure the supply of food to the citizens after stores have been looted and burned by criminals who infiltrated from beyond the borders—something that confirms that they are agents of foreigners.

Notes 'Sabotage' of Food Stocks

NC0404115391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—Minister of Trade Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has disclosed that part of the supplies stored in governorates that were the scenes of sabotage has been trucked outside of Iraq.

In a statement published in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today, the minister said these goods were transported to a neighboring country from the Governorates of Irbil, al-Basrah, Maysan, al-Ta'mim, and Khanaqin District.

He added that strategic reserves of 148,000 tons of grain were looted, destroyed, and burned in southern and central Iraq and in the northern region.

He noted that reserves of other commodities such as baby milk, detergents, frozen meat, electrical supplies, tires, and construction materials in these governorates were systemically looted, burned, and destroyed.

The trade minister denied that Iran had extended any aid to Iraq to offset the shortages Iraqi people faced because of the economic blockade. He said Iran sent Iraq only two trucks carrying a cargo of 15 tons of rice, flour, and baby milk. One third of this quantity was not suitable for consumption because their expiration date had expired.

Stock of Cooking Gas, Kerosene Running Out Fast

JN0404140091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
4-5 Apr 91 p 3

[By P. V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Iraq has only a few days' supply of kerosene and cooking gas to meet the demands of its people, and unless the international community rushes in the two products immediately, the very existence of

millions of Iraqis would be put in jeopardy, according to experts who are familiar with the energy situation in the embattled country.

"The country's stock of kerosene and gas cylinders will run out in the next few days, leaving more and more Iraqis to turn to wood for cooking purposes," said one of the experts. "As it is, many people have used up most of the available wood—furniture in many cases—and it will only be a matter of time before they will have nothing to cook their food with—whether kerosene, gas or wood," said the expert, who has just returned from Iraq after a three-week stay there.

Under rationing imposed by the government, every family is supposed to get one cylinder of cooking gas every month. But few cylinders are available at the price fixed by the government—0.90 fils each. Each cylinder now costs as much as 15 dinars on the black market.

In some cases, stampedes have been reported when government centres opened their doors to distribute gas.

Kerosene—also rationed at 60 litres per family per month—was the main, perhaps the only, heating fuel available to the Iraqis during the winter. But the fuel is also needed to cook food since most of them have turned to primitive kerosene stoves to make up for the shortage in cooking gas.

According to the expert, who preferred anonymity, the devastation of Iraqi facilities in the Allied blitzkrieg in the Gulf war is of such an extent that it would take anywhere between three months to one year before Iraq's power generating and oil refining capacity could be raised to the minimum level required to operate water sanitation plants and power generators on any emergency basis.

"Small mobile generators—imported during peacetime but in limited quantities—are being used by the Iraqis now to operate hospitals, but they also need a minimum amount of fuel," the expert pointed out.

"In my personal estimate, the authorities will not be able to meet more than seven to 10 per cent of Iraqis' power needs for the next few months," he said.

Analysts in the power industry say that the pre-war electricity requirement of Iraq was around 1,800 megawatts: about 30 percent produced by hydropower, but these facilities have also been hit in the allied bombing. The country had a total installed capacity of 1,950 megawatts.

A United Nations mission which visited Iraq in mid-March reported that the "minimum survival level to undertake humanitarian activities would require approximately 25 percent of pre-war civilian domestic fuel consumption." The mission, in its findings to the U.N. secretariat, underlined that "fuel imports must take place urgently."

Iraq, with a high level of urbanisation, depended on oil and its derivatives for about 85 per cent of its energy consumption since 72 percent of its 18 million people lived in towns;

in the rural areas, almost every phase of agriculture and farming was dependent either on fuel or electricity.

Various international agencies have been sending fuel—in addition to relief supplies such as food and medicine to Iraq—but a Jordanian relief worker described such supplies as "a drop in the bucket."

The pre-war oil consumption of Iraq is estimated at around 400,000 barrels a day. Now, the amount of refined products reaching the public is less than 10 percent of this figure, according to the relief worker, who also emphasised the general, priority needs of the Iraqi people.

"What we are talking about is food, water and medicine for 18 million people," said the relief worker who accompanied a supply convoy to Iraq last week. "If we are to calculate one loaf of bread for one person per day, it means 1.8 million tonnes of baked bread—100,000 trucks each of 18 tonne capacity—for bread alone," he said. "Imagine the amount of fuel required to transport that quantity or even 10 percent of it."

The situation facing Iraq was described as "near-apocalyptic" by the U.N. mission, which was headed by Under Secretary General Martti Ahtisaari of Finland.

"Bombardment has paralysed oil and electricity sectors almost entirely," says the report, a copy of which was available to the Jordan Times. "Power and refineries' production will not be resumed until the first repair phase is complete," it adds.

The report called for allowing Iraq to import not only fuel but also power units and spare parts.

Acting in line with the report, the Security Council voted in the third week of March to partially lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in August. But several conditions were attached to supplying food, medicine and essential commodities, thus slowing down the process.

The Iraqi Government has assured the Ahtisaari mission that it was willing to adhere to U.N. supervision of imports as well as actual use of essentials in the country, the report said.

Oil Ministry To Ration Motor Fuels in Al-Anbar

NC0404160491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Announcement by the Oil Ministry on regulating the rationing of fuel for vehicles in al-Anbar Governorate]

[Excerpt] In implementing leader President Saddam Husayn's orders to resume supplying citizens in al-Anbar Governorate with gasoline and gas oil, the Oil Ministry has announced that on 10 April 1991 it will start distributing ration cards for gasoline and gas oil from centers to be announced later for vehicles that run on gasoline and gas oil and that carry al-Anbar license plates only.

The distribution will be in the following amounts:

Thirty liters of gasoline every 20 days—red card.

Seventy-five liters of gas oil each month for buses with less than 40 passenger capacity and trucks whose load is less than five tonnes—blue card.

One hundred and twenty liters of gas oil for large buses whose capacity is 40 passengers and above and big trucks whose load is five tonnes and above—yellow card. [passage omitted]

Responses to UN Resolution 687 Noted

Envoy Launches 'Fierce' Attack

NC0404115691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1040 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The UN Security Council has passed a resolution defining the terms for a permanent cease-fire with Iraq. AFP cited an official source as saying that the resolution was passed by a majority of 12 votes. Cuba voted against the resolution, while Yemen and Ecuador abstained. The agency added that before the vote, 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, launched a fierce attack against Resolution 687, saying that Iraq reserves the right to demand compensation to repair the damage caused by the forces of the U.S.-Atlantic aggression against Iraq.

Called 'Mark of Disgrace'

NC0504101591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0710 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] UN Security Council Resolution No. 687 is an American resolution in its formulation and text from beginning to end. The U.S. Administration imposed it on the Security Council, just as it earlier imposed 13 other unjust and harsh resolutions against Iraq. The United States has turned this council into an auxiliary wing of the State Department, and has stripped it of all human values and principles. The UN Security Council was supposedly founded in order to represent and defend these values and principles. With this resolution—which is unprecedented in the history of the international organization—the U.S. Administration has itself exposed its true intentions and aims toward Iraq, and has destroyed all pretexts and [words indistinct] which it was using to cover up those intentions and aims.

[Words indistinct] aggression against Iraq in defense of international legitimacy or human rights, as U.S. officials have been claiming. Its aim was to destroy the pan-Arab cultural project that Iraq represents. Its aim was also to destroy and weaken Iraq, and obstruct its march toward scientific and cultural progress. These are also the aims of Resolution 687. This American resolution explicitly expresses the essence and substance of the

so-called new world order, which the American Administration has been announcing to the world. It is an order that grants it the right to flagrantly interfere in the internal affairs of other states, and authorizes it to impose conditions on these states in a manner that will (?subordinate) their sovereignty, resources, and will.

A quick review of the American resolution clearly shows that it manifests the legitimacy of U.S. domination of the world and not international legitimacy. It not only returns the international community to medieval times and to the colonialist era, but also to the law of the jungle, the law of power and domination, the imposition of custodianship and hegemony on the peoples, and pawning their rights and sovereignty.

The resolution does not serve the interest of security and stability in the region, as they claim, but instead will foster instability and a lack of security. It responds to the Zionist entity's interests, and ensures its strategic superiority over the Arabs. It encourages this entity, and perhaps others, [words indistinct] aggression and expansion more than at any time before. Furthermore, the resolution represents a new, unfamiliar style of world dictatorship. Those who think that they will not be affected by this American dictatorship are mistaken, because it will affect everyone, even those who contributed to the adoption of the resolution. Those who support and praise America today will tomorrow find themselves victims of this dictatorship, unable to prevent the interference of the U.S. octopus in their internal affairs under this or that pretext.

This resolution, which contradicts the basis of international law and the UN Charter, is not only an international political and moral scandal, but will remain a mark of disgrace in the history of the international organization. This is because this resolution constitutes a new, wanton aggression against Iraq (?involving) all those who helped pass it, not only 30 states. Yes, it is a new aggression against our people and our country, taking place under the cover of international legitimacy. What sort of international legitimacy is this?

'Blatant U.S. Pressure' Cited

NC0404185791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1715 GMT 4 Apr 91

[From "News and Reports" program]

[Text] Under blatant U.S. pressure, the UN Security Council has issued Resolution 687, which specifies the conditions for a formal cease-fire. The resolution was passed by a majority of 12. Cuba voted against the resolution, while Yemen and Ecuador abstained. The resolution stipulates that the food embargo imposed on Iraq be lifted immediately and demands that Baghdad destroy all its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 km. The United States of America has exercised great pressures on Security Council members.

Observers have noted that Washington ignored the council's opposing voices, especially the nonaligned countries which called for amending certain paragraphs in the draft resolution which they thought do injustice to Iraq and do not serve the purpose of establishing a genuine and permanent peace in the region.

UN Security Council sources believe the Bush administration is trying to establish a monopoly on determining international affairs, especially Middle East affairs. The same sources also believe that the Zionist entity is the first to benefit from the U.S. draft resolution, which will inflict great damage on the regional balances.

The new resolution does not end the acts of belligerence in the Gulf; it only approves a formal cease-fire. This weakens its procedural value and its ability to guarantee security, peace, and stability in the region. The resolution does not refer this issue to the International Court of Justice. It ignores the fact that the 1963 minutes [not further identified], to which the resolution refers, were not signed by Iraq and are therefore not binding.

The new resolution continues the economic embargo in an unjustifiable manner. It runs contrary to the nature of past UN Security Council resolutions and gives Iraq nothing, except that it ratifies the Sanctions Committee's decision to allow the dispatch of foodstuffs, medicines, and other essential materials to Iraq.

It is an unfair resolution imposed by the U.S. hegemony on the UN Security Council. History has taught us that this kind of resolution will complicate problems rather than resolve them and maintains the factors that would exacerbate those problems rather than removing them.

Restores Age of 'Imperialism'

NC0504094691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT
5 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that the tyrannical [al-istibdadi] U.S. draft resolution, transformed as usual into a UN Security Council resolution, complements other resolutions that have targeted Iraq in the form of an economic, political, and military war.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says that this conspiratorial resolution reflects the U.S. concern with tipping the balance of power in the region in Israel's favor, and giving Israel free rein to become an influential power representing one of the tentacles of the U.S. octopus in the region.

The newspaper explains that the details of this resolution cancel the UN Charter in letter and spirit, and install this resolution as a substitute for the views and aspirations of peoples. Every paragraph in this resolution is a departure from international norms and customs. This resolution has become a vehicle for expressing U.S. hegemony. All the paragraphs of the resolution contain words that express hegemony in the name of the Security Council.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that this conspiratorial resolution cannot be separated from other events, beginning with the aggressive war against Iraq, the sedition that followed—the details of which are becoming clear day by day—and ending with the U.S. desire to knock the wind out of the world and let it breathe only with a U.S. lung—otherwise, it would die.

The newspaper says all evidence has shown that the imperialist West has not hidden its hatred of the Arab nation for one moment. It stresses that the political maneuvers pursued in the past few years by the West to give the false impression that it has abandoned its old colonialist ideas have been an exposed game whose aim has been to seize the suitable opportunity to pounce on the Arab nation and tear it apart.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the U.S. resolution accurately expresses the law of the jungle, which used to rule the primitive world. The United States has resurrected this law and has used its power and resources to humiliate the civilized world and take it back to prehistoric ages.

The newspaper says that according to the U.S. concept, aggression and intimidation have become the common basis of governing the world. This means that the principles of justice and international legitimacy has collapsed under the blows of the U.S. baton.

Concluding, AL-QADISIYAH says: At a time when we see these cheap and inhuman methods of dealing with our nation, we the Arabs are duty-bound to condemn and denounce this dirty resolution, which restores for the world and for our nation in particular the ages of imperialism and subservience. The honorable sons of the nation must stand up in the face of these plots which will take back the world to the ages of decline, oblivion, and backwardness.

Memo Alleges U.S. Violation of 'Sovereignty'

NC0504052391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2120 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—Iraq's representative to the United Nations has submitted a memo to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar regarding U.S. attempts to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty.

The memo states that on 8 March 1991, a U.S. Army vehicle approached the nearest point on the bridge leading to the city of Suq al-Shuyukh in Dhi Qar Governorate. The vehicle was driven by an American who was accompanied by a female journalist named Patrick Owen [name as received] from the British network TV-AM. The journalist carried an entry permit for journalists issued by the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry and asked permission to enter Suq al-Shuyukh to film the area and the Iraqi units. She was denied entry. The journalist asked permission to come back at 1000 the next morning to take pictures after obtaining a permit. Following an investigation, it has been revealed that the Culture and Information Ministry had not

granted that journalist a press entry permit, and that the journalist was not allowed to film.

By setting before the secretary general, the UN Security Council, and the whole world this example of U.S. attempts to encroach upon Iraq's sovereignty, we hope that the international community will understand the level reached by the U.S. Administration in using all methods to intervene in Iraq's domestic affairs.

'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's representative to the United Nations, asked that the memo be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

Kurdistan Party Cables Support for Saddam

NC0404181691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 4 Apr 91

["Text" of cable from the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan; date not given]

[Text] President Leader and Struggler Saddam Husayn, May God preserve you:

Once again the arrows of the frustrated ones have gone astray and the proud Iraqis have proved that they can overcome difficult circumstances. They are offering great sacrifices for the unity of the homeland and the gains of the great 17-30 July revolution.

Our Kurdish people, who have enjoyed their legitimate national rights under your wise leadership, have always been true to your expectations of them. They have defended the homeland's soil and their roots are deep in the soil of great Iraq. They have resisted the storms that were aimed at undermining the whole of Iraq and which were a test of determination. The Iraqi people have remained united as a solid wall, strengthening one another and rising above the forces of treachery, evil, and treason.

Inspired leader: Blessed are the hands that rushed to purge the dear soil of Kurdistan of the filth of the renegade traitors who are tampering with the sacred cause of our people, and who, at the command of their masters, are trying to undermine national unity.

On this dear occasion, our Democratic Party of Kurdistan is happy to offer you warm congratulations, expresses its pride in its constructive national role under your wise leadership, and renews its pledge to march ahead relentlessly on the path of developing the democratic edifice, entrenching national unity, and deepening the autonomy.

Glory and loftiness to great Iraq, pride and greatness to our triumphant Army. May God preserve you as a symbol of the nation's unity and a supporter of the [Kurdish] autonomy. It is God who grants success.

[Signed] The Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

Thousands of Muslims 'Slaughtered' in Karbala'

LD0404145191 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), April 4, IRNA—Thousands of Iraqi Muslims were "slaughtered" while several thousand others were "lucky" to escape with injuries of varying degrees in the latest attack of the Republican Guards on the holy city of Karbala', disclosed an Iraqi citizen who took refuge in Iran last night.

Seyyed Ala Musavi who hails from Karbala', added that some 60,000 other residents of the holy city which houses the shrine of the prophet's (Spbuh) grandson Imam Husayn (Bhuh), are now stranded in the adjoining deserts "facing starvation and shortages of medicine."

The desecration of Islamic sanctuaries in Karbala' and al-Najaf and the slaughter of civilians by a regime which in no way represents the people it rules, has shocked the civilized world.

According to another refugee Ali Karbalaee "460 of the Republican [Guards] were struck with remorse at the atrocities of the Ba'thist forces [against] Islamic sites, joined the people's ranks against the regime."

He confirmed that clashes between people and pro-government troops were raging on in most parts of Iraq despite the regime's claims of putting down the popular uprising.

Ex-Republican Guard, Seyyed Naser al-Husseini from al-Basrah, reported pitched battles in the several southern Iraqi cities.

He said 200 of the Republican Guards based in his hometown had deserted in recent days.

Opposition Says Fighting Continuing in Al-Basrah

LD0404121191 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—Residents in the troubled port city of al-Basrah continue to fight the Ba'thist regime despite concentration of the Iraqi Army units in city squares, schools and state organizations, an opposition radio announced Wednesday night.

Radio Voice of the Revolutionary Iraq monitored here further announced that the opposition forces have attacked a position of the presidential guards stationed near al-Basrah petrochemical complex inflicting casualties. The Iraqi revolutionaries have also attacked the 6th Battalion of the 20th Brigade in al-Nashwah region of al-Basrah destroying the headquarters, killing its commander and four officers and wounding scores of others, the radio added.

Iraqi Opposition Cited on Progress of 'Revolution'

NC0404170191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] A responsible source in the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has said that the Iraqi people's revolution has proven its depth, nobility, permanence, and insistence on the downfall of the ruling regime in Iraq.

In a statement in Damascus today, the source noted some of the operations carried out by the popular revolution forces against the Iraqi regime's forces. It said that the popular revolution forces launched a violent attack yesterday on the regime's forces in Irbil and succeeded in defeating Saddam Husayn's forces and liberating the city after fierce battles. It added that the popular revolution forces are continuing to chase the remnants of the regime's forces.

The source said that the revolution forces launched another attack against the regime's forces in Karkuk, clashed with them in fierce battles, and succeeded in tightening their control over some positions inside the city. The popular revolution forces are continuing their operations to purge the city of the Iraqi regime's forces.

The spokesman said that the popular revolution forces destroyed a large number of the regime's tanks and vehicles and captured large quantities of weapons and ammunition. The spokesman added that 75 children, both boys and girls, were killed yesterday while fleeing with their families from the barbarity of the Iraqi regime's forces.

The daily report of the Iraqi people's uprising has announced that battles continue in northern Iraq between the popular revolution forces and the Iraqi regime. The report, which was issued in Damascus by the office of Ayatollah al-Mudarrisi, said that the regime's forces are using all types of weapons, including chemical ones, against peaceful towns and villages while the number of those who have fled from their towns and villages has exceeded two million. The report added that the city of al-Najaf came under surface-to-surface missile attacks in the past 24 hours. It added that resistance is continuing in al-Basrah against the Iraqi regime's forces, which are attacked every night. The sound of explosions is being heard in the Iranian city of Khorramshahr, which lies 40 km from al-Basrah.

The report said that the regime's forces are committing the crime of random genocide against the families whose sons have taken part in the uprising.

An official source in the Islamic al-Da'wah Party of Iraq has stated that the Iraqi regime's forces are taking women and children on board helicopters so the rebels will not shoot them down. After completing their bombing missions, the helicopters throw these children and women from a high altitude in an unprecedented spectacle to deter the rebels.

Reportage on Plight of Refugees Fleeing to Iran**Some Dying of Exposure**

LD0404093691 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azerbaijan Prov., April 4, IRNA—A group of 40 Iraqi refugees died of cold weather on Irbil-Haji Umran road as they were marching to the Iranian side of the border. The road linking Iraq's Irbil to Iran's Haji Umran was heavily congested Tuesday night while it was raining non-stop.

An Iranian relief worker in charge of refugees said the fleeing Iraqis do not have basic means of subsistence, and that a large number of them are marching to this side of the border under unhealthy physical conditions due to deprivation and starvation.

Await Passage at Border

NC0404114891 Paris AFP in English 1116 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 4 (AFP)—A million Iraqi Kurdish refugees have massed along the border waiting to cross into Iran, and 20,000 others have already entered the country, the official IRNA news agency reported Thursday.

IRNA, citing an informed source, said Iran would allow all the refugees into the country. The build-up at the border had been going on for the past two days.

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Kurdish refugees have been fleeing the advancing Iraqi army as it crushed the revolt against President Saddam Husayn.

Claims on Number of Fleeing Rebutted

NC0404195291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—A spokesman for the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region has refuted IRNA's claims about the number of Kurds that it claims are massing on the Iranian border.

The spokesman said: Regardless of the sudden Iranian feelings towards the Kurds, who have suffered ruin and destruction in Iran where they were not allowed to exercise any ethnic rights, the IRNA editor does not know the number of inhabitants in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate or even in the city of al-Sulaymaniyah itself.

The spokesman added: If we assume, for the sake of argument, that this number is correct, that is more than a million Kurds, how did they reach the Iranian border in less than one day? How many vehicles took them there? If we assume that every vehicle carries on average ten persons, then there must 100,000 vehicles in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, all now heading toward the Iranian border. This means that the IRNA editor is either ignorant or tendentious. We believe that he is tendentious and that the listener in Iraq, Iran, and the

Middle East can now differentiate between the news emanating from Iran and reports and commentaries coming from the radios of Israel and the great satan alliance which seems to have succeeded in climbing the shoulders of others. [sentence as received]

Opposition Urges Turkey To Open Borders

NC0304175191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1602 GMT
3 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Damascus, 3 Apr (SANA)—Iraqi citizens continue to flee Iraq to escape the oppression and repression of the country's regime.

The secretariat of the Iraqi opposition forces' Joint Action Committee has cabled Turkish President Turgut Ozal appealing for his prompt intervention to halt the tragedy to which the Iraqi people are being subjected.

The secretariat asked the Turkish president to open his country's borders for the Iraqis who are fleeing the oppression of the Iraqi regime and by doing so save them from death. They also asked the Turkish president to allow relief work by competent international organizations to help fleeing Iraqis. They also asked Ozal to promote their cause and give them succor and assistance. [passage omitted]

Jawad al-Maliki, spokesman for the Political Bureau of the Islamic Da'wah Party in Iraq, has said that it is not surprising that the Iraqi regime is using weapons of mass destruction again since it has used them more than once in the past.

The spokesman said in a statement issued today that the forces of the Iraqi regime are engaging in terrible acts of genocide using aircraft and internationally banned weapons.

He urged the international community to intervene to stop the slaughter of innocent Iraqis.

Opposition Leader Urges World To Support Rebellion

NC0504072991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran—The opposition Voice of the Iraqi Revolution Radio reported last night that battles continue in the city of al-Basrah in southern Iraq between the popular uprising forces and the forces belonging to the Iraqi regime. IRNA cited the radio as saying that the popular forces attacked the regime troops' position near the al-Basrah petrochemical complex, which resulted in deaths and injuries among the people there. They also attacked one of the brigades near the city, which led to the death of the leader of the brigade and four other officers, while a number of others were injured.

Ayatollah Muhammad Taqiy al-Mudarrisi's office announced that the popular forces yesterday waged a lightning attack on Iraqi regime positions in the region of al-Mashrah in the Governorate of al-'Amarah, causing

many losses. A statement issued by al-Mudarrisi's office yesterday said pitched battles are taking place in the city of Irbil between the revolution forces and the Iraqi regime forces. The statement added that the cities of Karbala', al-Najaf, and al-'Amarah are the scenes of anti-Iraq regime demonstrations at night.

On the other hand, Ayatollah Muhammad Taqiy al-Mudarrisi called on the leaders of Islamic movements and scholars to bear their responsibilities toward what the Iraqi people are being subjected to, expose the crimes of the Iraqi regime, and confront and topple it. Al-Mudarrisi said Saddam Husayn's regime seeks to erase the identity of the Iraqi person with all its might, since it has propagated educational and moral corruption by using the force of weapons in the land of Mesopotamia.

Hojjat-ul-Islam Muhammad al-'Alawi, one of the most prominent leaders of the Iraqi political opposition, in a statement distributed in Damascus yesterday called on members of the Iraqi Army to join the ranks of the revolutionaries to topple the Iraqi regime and stop the ongoing bloodshed.

Al-'Alawi affirmed that the popular uprising exploding inside Iraq is the result of a long-time precipitation of pain and suffering experienced by the Iraqi people within Saddam's hegemony over authority. He said the victory of the popular revolution in Iraq is at hand, since it contains the elements for happening soon. He called on world nations to stand by the Iraqi people and help them in their current crisis.

Baghdad Radio Talks, Commentaries Discuss Issues

'Beloved' North Purged; 'Plot' Foiled

NC0504085191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0635 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Whenever the Iraqi people and vanguard Armed Forces manage to realize a historic achievement that kills off part of the plot, the evil trumpets and fabricators of false facts and reports start playing new or old tunes about human rights and international legitimacy. After purging our beloved north of the remnants of agents and mobs, who could barely find their own escape routes while fleeing to our international border, from which they had arrived, voices in Zionist and other related Western circles rose to avenge the failure of the plot concocted by these circles, which was aimed at dividing Iraq and fomenting sedition among its patient and peaceful people. They are now realizing that the unity of Iraq is a hard rock on which all their evil dreams and illusions of humiliating the Iraqis and harming their noble values and principles are foundering.

Purging the city of al-Sulaymaniyah of agents proved the recklessness of the expectations that wagered on something other than this result. This swift and brave operation surprised the enemies lying in wait behind the

border, and reversed all their calculations. The citizens of Iraq and all its cities and villages are removing the agents and mobs, and the people are taking to the streets of these cities and villages to welcome the soldiers of truth who made the agents and mobs taste the bitterness of defeat, and once again foiled their dirty plot that aimed to destroy Iraq and harm the dignity of its people.

Now that peace has been restored to our beloved north, and after the banner of great Iraq is waving over every village and city in our great Iraq, these agents and their masters can do nothing but lament their failure and the failure of their schemes and evil dreams. We knew that. Our people are accustomed to hearing and listening to something like this whenever the schemes and plots of the evil ones fail to penetrate the unity of the homeland or tamper with the destiny of its [word indistinct] kinfolk and citizens.

British 'Intrigues' Denounced

NC0504083491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0553 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Ever since Britain occupied a number of Arab countries at the beginning of this century, it has pursued a policy of controlling these countries. It planned for this policy to continue long after it left the Arab homeland. Britain concocted plans and plots to secure its control even after it was compelled under popular and international pressure to end direct colonization of these countries.

[Words indistinct] an Arab country to break the circle of isolation and backwardness to form a new and strong status enjoying scientific and technical progress and to become a major country in the Middle East and the world. Therefore, Britain, which was a great power, has worked to suppress the nascent Iraqi experiment. It has done its best to prevent progress in Iraq from taking its course.

Thus, Britain has been the most enthusiastic country to issue the ill-fated resolution by the UN Security Council. It has been the most enthusiastic country to strike at Iraq and rob it of its military and scientific power, and would have done so even if Iraq had approved the resolutions earlier, and even if it had carried out an early withdrawal from Kuwait.

Today, documents seized by responsible authorities prove the involvement of Britain, the Mosad, and Iranian quarters in the sectarian seditions that took place recently in southern, central, and northern Iraq. These documents show Britain's hatred in its clearest forms. Throughout its history, Britain has worked hard to divide the Arab homeland and harm its interests. It is the author of the ill-fated Balfour declaration, and it carried out the partitioning of Palestine.

Britain will remain an archenemy of the Arab nation, waiting for opportunities to strike at it. It will continue to try to harm the interest of this nation.

If the so-called Great Britain worked persistently to strike Iraq during the aggression launched by the United States and its allies, then it is seeking to continue these hostile actions now and in the future.

Because of all this, the sons of Iraq cannot forget Britain's positions. Because of all this, shame will continue to surround Britain's policy now and in the future, because it agrees with U.S. and Zionist policies in their aggressive plans. Arabs in all their countries must be aware of this policy and denounce it, because these intrigues are not directed against Iraq only, but against all Arabs.

Foreign Collusion Cited

NC0404205891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1902 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: By burying the filthy plot against Iraq's unity and its people's security and legitimate aspirations for construction, renaissance, and progress, the glorious Iraqis, both Arabs and Kurds alike, have dealt the most violent slap in the face to the enemies who nurtured and planned the conspiracy and recruited criminals and traitors and sent them to infiltrate Iraq as it confronted the aggression of 30 or more states.

Now that Iraq's north and south have been purged of the murderers and saboteurs and vile mobsters, documents have revealed that the Zionist entity, Britain, France, and others have colluded in fomenting the sedition. Therefore, a great stigma of shame will continue to haunt the murderers and traitors who have been defeated and have fled back to where they came from, disgraced and humiliated forever.

The events of the past weeks have not only exposed some Arab parties, such as the Damascus regime, but have also revealed the extent of hatred the imperialists and their protege Israel harbor for Iraq and their fear of Iraq's renaissance, unity, independent national policy, and legitimate representation of the Arab nation's hopes and aspirations for unity, freedom, and progress.

If purging al-Sulaymaniyah and, before it, the dear north, has in effect terminated the duties placed on the shoulders of our heroic armed forces, it nevertheless makes it incumbent on all Iraqis to assume a double task simultaneously: First, construction requires security and stability; second, in order to ensure security and stability, every Iraqi should be responsible for rebuilding what was destroyed in the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and to repair the damage that was caused to towns and villages by the mobsters who came from across the borders. By doing so, the Iraqis will have completely frustrated the plans against Iraq, its independence, its revolution's achievements, its territorial integrity, its sovereignty, and its inalienable national and pan-Arab rights, so that Iraq may resume its effective contribution to the realization of a just peace and security in

the region and play its principal role in the struggle of construction and liberation on the pan-Arab level.

The end of the sedition marks a new beginning of responsible national work in the difficult circumstances imposed on us by the aggressors and their lackeys and traitors. Our great Iraqi people, with their historical dimension and their characteristics, qualities, and principles, are capable of overcoming the difficulties and can march toward the bright future heralded by our struggler leader Saddam Husayn.

'Wailing Voices' on Human Rights Decried

NC0304181191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1420 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: Those who are now raising their voices in all the rented media organs and radios about human rights and the sufferings borne these days by some people in Iraq, those who have raised their hoarse voices calling for the need to protect this or that group of demagogues and agents who follow the orders of the foreigners forget that not one of them raised his voice when these groups began their [word indistinct] sedition, caused havoc, robbed the peaceful citizens' possessions, and harmed Iraq's image and the country's security and stability.

Yes, brothers. They have started talking about the alleged human rights when the soldiers of right succeeded in extinguishing the fire of sedition in the south and [word indistinct] in purging the agents in the north and tightening the noose around them, making them lay down their arms, return to their senses, or flee scared toward the international borders across which they have come. Yes, these wailing voices now feel that they have to defend those who were deceived by the Zionist circles and their agents in the region to deal a blow to the Iraqi people and harm the true values of patriotism and manhood. They thought that the historic moment had come to settle accounts with the gigantic Iraqi revolution after the United States and the forces, navies, and armies of the aggression had failed to achieve their objectives from their massive aggression against Iraq. They dreamt that the army would lay down its arms and abandon the values of chivalry and patriotism that characterize it. They dreamt that we would abandon all the values and principles which have existed within us and turned our homeland into a steadfast citadel of liberation and of national and pan-Arab construction.

But they failed and their hopes were dashed. Iraq's unity is a firm fact which all the deceived cowards and demagogues have failed to damage or to reach its noble essence. Iraq exists despite them, free and proud and with all its good people, long history, and all its noble sensible men and women. It will remain a thorn in the side of the agents and imperialists, a proud banner raised everywhere with the word of justice and the meanings of honor and patriotism which all the forces of [word indistinct] and evil cannot harm.

Paper Views Situation in Two Governorates

NC0304143891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
3 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpt] Informed Iraqi Government sources have stated that the Iraqi Armed Forces are about to liquidate the last pockets of agents in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. Thus, Iraq will have foiled the most dangerous link in the chain of imperialist aggression represented by the attempts by groups of mercenaries and criminal agents, supported by imperialist America and some regional forces, to dismember Iraq and strike at its national regime.

The destruction of the last pockets of sedition and the restoration of stability in Iraq will enable the Council of Ministers to meet next week to discuss the new Iraqi Government's plan and policy. A responsible source told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Council of Ministers would discuss and work out a plan to reconstruct Iraq and extend services to the citizens.

A SAWT AL-SHA'B correspondent toured the Governorate of Irbil 500 kms north of Baghdad. The situation was calm throughout the governorate.

A SAWT AL-SHA'B correspondent also saw the results of the acts of plundering and destruction carried out by the criminal agent rebels, particularly the plundering and destruction of the central supply warehouses and the burning of the Irbil Hotel, the central library, the governor's office, and other government and private institutions. [passage omitted]

Baghdad Hospitals Reportedly in 'Bad State'

JN0304114291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
3 Apr 91 p 3

[By Maryam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Baghdad—For the peoples of the 40 or 50 countries that went to war against Iraq Jan. 17 the war has ended, but for Iraqis, in many ways, the war has just begun.

Baghdad hospitals are in a bad state. They only operate through the use of old electricity generators. Most women, as in the days of the war, deliver their children at home because they cannot make it to the hospitals for lack of transport.

Most hospitals are confined to treating emergencies and patients at home, said Dr. Boghos Boghossian, head of the Surgery Department at Baghdad's second largest hospital, al-Yarmuk.

"Many people who require surgery are not receiving it because of lack of necessary medicaments to carry through the treatment," said Boghossian.

The atmosphere in this 700-bed hospital is calm, and patients and doctors alike seem to have accepted, for the moment, their fate of being kept in the dark. The staff rotate in two to three-day shifts because of the transportation problem.

Every doctor's clinic has a bed and a candle. Water is still brought in by tanks and until the country's infrastructure is repaired or rebuilt there seems to be no hope that running water and constant electricity could be made available for patients and staff as well.

Foreign relief workers report that in most hospitals there is not enough water to clean the sheets and the fabric bandages.

"This will cause infection and possibly further diseases," said one Scottish relief worker.

Water is still down from 250 litres per head per day to 25 litres. Extra water needed for sick people is "not available" and patients with burns in particular have suffered from the lack of water necessary for their cure.

"Many of the victims of war we treated were burn victims. Part of their cure is to immerse them in water; that, of course was impossible," said Dr. Boghossian.

While epidemics did not break out yet, with the warming of the weather a catastrophe seems to be around the corner and with all the strength they can still muster, Iraqi medical staff are bracing themselves for the worse.

During the war, Dr. Boghossian remembers, medical staff dreaded the possibility of total collapse of the medical system, "and now we face yet another inhuman challenge."

"One must not forget that every doctor and nurse was thinking not only of their patients but of their own families as they heard the bombardments night after night, it was a nightmare," Dr. Boghossian says recalling the atmosphere during the war.

After the bombing of the al-'Amiriyah shelter in Baghdad, the fear that such an incident would occur again was great, doctor Sabah 'Ana'i at the al-Yarmuk Hospital said.

"We prepared the emergency rooms for burn victims as best as we could as soon as we heard that a shelter had been hit," he said. "A lorry arrived at the hospital," Dr. Boghossian recalls. "We looked inside and suddenly there was total silence. Children, young girls, and old men, eight in all. These charred people were the only survivors," he said.

Although officials have estimated that 800 people died in the shelter, doctors estimate that most shelters could house anywhere from 2,000-3,000 people.

The number of war victims treated at the al-Yarmuk Hospital were around 600; at Saddam General Hospital, in the Baghdad suburb of Saddam City, the number was 400, but no one can give any figures of how many war victims were treated in all.

"People can hardly get to work, let alone find the fuel to drive around and ask each hospital how many people died or how many were treated. That may come later, but now there are other priorities," said a doctor at Saddam General hospital.

Many residents of Baghdad are suffering from stress-related illnesses which medical staff have not had time to begin to address, doctors here say.

"The kinds of side effects the bombings had will ultimately kill more people than the actual bombings," said one doctor.

Dr. Boghossian is amazed at the "overapplication" of the U.N.-sponsored economic sanctions which left medical supplies, ordered and paid for long before Aug. 2, stranded on the Turkish-Iraqi border.

The general paralysis of the country, Dr. Boghossian says, has rendered the medical sector impotent as well and all changes now depend, he says, on the resumption of oil exports. In his words "there is oil everywhere and not a drop to use."

Communist Party Leader on Opposition to Saddam

PM0304072091 Paris LE MONDE in French
29 Mar 91 p 3

[Jean Gueyras report: "Only A Democratic Solution Can Solve the Succession Problem"]

[Text] An Iraqi opposition leader—Fakhri Karim, a member of the Iraqi Communist Party Politburo—was received for the first time by a senior French Foreign Ministry official on Wednesday, 27 March.

At the end of that meeting, Mr. Karim told us that he had questioned his interlocutor on Paris' attitude toward the "democratic alternative" proposed by the Joint Action Committee which groups the 17 Iraqi opposition organizations. "My impression is," he said, "that France has not made any final decision on this subject, but that French Government circles are favorable to such a solution."

"However," he added, "what worries the Iraqi opposition most, is the attitude adopted by the United States which is playing a dangerous game whose present aim seems to be to extort as many concessions as possible from Saddam Husayn—concessions which will naturally bind the Baghdad dictator's successors. In short, the Americans do not just want to punish Saddam Husayn but also any government which succeeds him and which will be obliged to accept U.S. hegemony over the whole region."

To justify their nonintervention in southern Iraq, Mr. Karim added, the Americans are claiming that there is presently no alternative to Saddam Husayn and especially that they want to safeguard Iraq's unity.

In fact, he stressed, "these are pretexts aimed at concealing their real policy which disregards the Iraqi people's will and paves the way for the arrival in power of

another Saddam Husayn who will not be able to refuse them anything and will ensure that their interests in the region are respected."

Mr. Fakhri Karim stressed that the Iraqi opposition has tried to make its voice heard in the United States. But, he added, "they do not want to listen to us and only listen to what they want to hear." However, he thinks there is a struggle within the U.S. Administration between "those who gambled and are still gambling on Saddam Husayn and those who want to find an alternative to Saddam Husayn but outside the democratic opposition." In this connection, he deplored the attitude of the Europeans who, while favoring a "democratic solution to the succession problem" are doing nothing to impose their viewpoint in Washington, merely playing a "secondary role" regarding the future of Iraq and the Near East.

The communist leader expressed the view that Saddam Husayn will not be able to stay in power for "long," because "he has so many problems to solve. He is not just opposed by the Shiites and Kurds but by the overwhelming majority of the Iraqi population." However, he added, he will cling to power for as long as he can. "To that end he is prepared to exterminate all the

Iraqis and he will not commit suicide." Regarding the liberation of Kurdistan, he said that it is "irreversible," and that only "a chemical bombardment of the big Kurdish cities" would enable the Iraqi troops to reverse the situation.

Mr. Fakhri Karim said that the opposition, which is due to regroup in Kurdistan shortly, is ruling out any idea of forming a "provisional government" for the time being. "As long as the liberated territories are limited to Kurdistan, such an eventuality is inappropriate. A substantial number of UN and Arab League members would have to support such an initiative." On the other hand, he thinks that the opposition will form a "committee for national salvation" in Kurdistan with the aim of supervising the intifadah (the uprising).

In this connection, he expressed regret at some statements made in Tehran by several Iranian leaders and by Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, suggesting that the next Iraqi government should be "Islamic." "Almost all the opposition thinks that the next Baghdad government will be not be Shiite, Sunni, or Kurdish, but Iraqi," he said.

General Staff Steps To Cut Manpower Approved

TA0404104791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Last night, a discussion was held at the chief of staff's office. It lasted several hours and was attended by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] commanders of corps, branches, and regional commands. The IDF spokesman reported that the chief of the general staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Barak, divulged the operational direction of the IDF's multiyear plan. The main direction discussed in the session concerns the years from 1991 to 1995. The full plan will be presented to the defense minister and the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs in three months.

In the session, it was decided to immediately deal with several issues: to expand and strengthen the Ground Forces Command's [GFC] authority and transmit authority from the General Staff to the GFC to avoid duplication, simplify procedures, and save officers' posts; to introduce changes in the General Staff's structure; to adapt the rear organization to the lessons learned from the war; and to unify and simplify treatment of the issue without additional manpower.

It was further decided to reduce two major general posts in the General Staff: the post of commander of the team in charge of drawing conclusions, until recently manned by reserve Maj. Gen. Moshe Bar-Kokhba; and the unmanned slot of the assistant to the commander of the Operations Branch. It was also decided to make an immediate cut in the number of posts of standing and career soldiers in the chief of staff's and his deputy's offices, and later in additional bureaus.

Another decision made was to unite the Staff and Command College with the National Defense College to save on manpower and become more efficient.

All the steps the chief of staff presented yesterday were approved by the defense minister. Military sources said that the steps the chief of staff decided on yesterday are only initial, and if they are implemented, the General Staff would save hundreds of thousands of shekels each year.

It is worth mentioning that the urgent need to reduce the Army and cut down on commands and manpower became apparent several months ago, when the IDF's multiyear work plan collapsed when the Army was not reimbursed for intifadah expenses and it became clear that the defense budget would not grow. Last week, when Lt. Gen. Barak assumed duty, he made it clear to the General Staff generals that this is the first task he will take on, and that this is a necessary step for the future.

Sharon Discusses Territory Annexation, Gulf War

TA0404102191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
[SHV'TI SHEL PESACH supplement] in Hebrew
4 Apr 91 pp 1, 16

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dan Shilon; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shilon] So far, you have not given me the details of any practical steps toward eliminating the intifadah.

[Sharon] It is vital to expel the intifadah leaders. A curfew of unlimited duration should be clamped on a limited territory. Locations from which stones are hurled daily should be under a curfew of unlimited duration. Arabs who do not abide by a terrorist organization's dictums should be given a chance to protect themselves. I am referring to the people who are, to my chagrin, called collaborators. There are hundreds of people like this, and they should be equipped with weapons and allowed to protect their lives. They will protect themselves.

We should tighten control over those who enter Israel and those who do not go back home. All they need to do is punch a timecard. It is simple. All Arab vehicles from Judea, Samaria, and Gaza should be forbidden entry into the State of Israel. The transit of Gaza Strip Arabs into Judea and Samaria and vice versa should be prohibited. Nahal Brigade settlements should be set up on the site of every serious terrorist attack.

These are just several of the feasible and desirable steps. Many more cannot be discussed in public. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] After all the security measures you propose today are implemented, will it be possible, in your opinion, to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict without a political arrangement?

[Sharon] I keep hearing about various ideas for interim settlements, but I cannot understand who is proposing them and where they were decided upon.

[Shilon] What do you mean, you keep hearing?

[Sharon] I learned of the statement on the proposed interim arrangements through the media. Later, I received a confirmation in a government forum. The practical and immediate significance of the autonomy plan is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. I find it very grave.

[Shilon] Do you suggest that we unilaterally pull out of the Camp David accords?

[Sharon] I certainly do. If possible, I suggest we pull out.

[Shilon] You know perfectly well it is impossible.

[Sharon] We are the only ones who continue flaunting the Camp David accords.

[Shilon] The Americans do, too.

[Sharon] No, they no longer mention them.

[Shilon] They mention Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on which the Camp David accords are based. As is known, these resolutions speak of withdrawal from "territories."

[Sharon] Although the Americans are aware of the link between things, they have ceased talking of Camp David. The Camp David accords were important in that they enabled Egypt to sign a peace agreement with us. Their importance lies in that achievement.

[Shilon] Are you trying to say that, on our part, we never intended to implement the part which guarantees autonomy for the Palestinians?

[Sharon] The agreement was important in that it allowed Egypt to sign a peace agreement with us. In the meantime, after so many years, no one except us brandishes it any longer. The solution must be based on the assumption that the Palestinian state exists in Jordan.

[Shilon] What can we do if King Husayn, just like the Palestinians, does not share your assumption?

[Sharon] They reject every approach.

[Shilon] And is it your conclusion, therefore, that it is necessary to bring about King Husayn's downfall?

[Sharon] No.

[Shilon] Can you envisage Husayn turning his country into a Palestinian state and giving up Judaea and Samaria?

[Sharon] More and more people abroad publish articles in support of the definition of Jordan as the Palestinian state.

[Shilon] And even more people publish articles to the contrary—in favor of establishing a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria.

[Sharon] It is true, but the idea which I support is the only realistic one. Nothing else is realistic. In fact, Palestinians already rule Jordan. The government's peace initiative of May 1989 is extremely dangerous, and I will try to convince the Cabinet that it is a mistake.

[Shilon] And if you fail?

[Sharon] In that case, the only way to avert a disaster is to impose Israeli law and Israeli sovereignty on the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

[Shilon] Is that all we need now?

[Sharon] By all means. If the May 1989 political initiative is pursued, I will call for the annexation of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria to the State of Israel. Otherwise, this initiative will be a direct path toward the establishment of a Palestinian state. I am convinced that the prime minister does not wish that. I

am further convinced that he will not allow it to happen during his term in office. However, a corridor leading us to a Palestinian state was created during his term in office. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] Are you disappointed with the way the Gulf war ended?

[Sharon] The Iraqi power was damaged, but not eliminated, and Iraq's murderous, totalitarian regime has survived.

[Shilon] Did you want to see the physical elimination of Saddam Husayn?

[Sharon] Yes. He should be eliminated. It should have been one of the war's goals.

[Shilon] Were you disappointed by the fact that Israel did not join the war?

[Sharon] I have never desired war.

[Shilon] You, Ari'el Sharon, have never craved battle?

[Sharon] Contrary to all descriptions, I have never craved it. However, I cannot accept a situation in which, for the first time since the state was established, we failed to do all that is possible to protect citizens of this state. This is the gravest mistake possible, one of the worst an Israeli government has ever made. It would not have happened to Ben-Gurion, or Eshkol, or Golda Meir, or Rabin, or Begin. Nothing like that could have happened to them. It is a matter of principle. A government cannot consciously gamble with its citizens' lives and security. [passage omitted]

'Senior' Officer Says Katyusha Attack Foiled

TA0204152791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] A senior Northern Command officer says that there is information that the Lebanese Army foiled a Katyusha launch at Israel. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the man, an area commander holding the rank of colonel, said that we know that the Lebanese Army mans roadblocks and conducts patrols, although this can hardly be called an attempt to totally eliminate such attacks. He claims that all the terrorist squads that attempted to infiltrate Israel over the past 18 months did so in the western sector and the men involved belonged to Palestinian organizations.

The senior officer also said that the booby-trapped vessel that was blown up last week by the Navy in the al-Rashidiyah area contained hundreds of kilograms of explosives and that it was going to interfere with Navy activity. It was a fishing boat that usually does not arouse suspicion.

Report on New Israeli Peace Plan Denied

TA0404090091 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
4 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by Yo'el Esteron (Washington) and REUTER (Tunis)]

[Text] Yosi Ahime'ir, the head of the prime minister's bureau, last night denied an AFP report that Israel has presented the United States with a new Middle East peace plan, which for the first time includes the convening of a preparatory conference, probably in Cairo, with the participation of Israel and the Arab states.

"There is no new Israeli plan," Ahime'ir said, and added: "There are most certainly thoughts and ideas, some of which are in the AFP report while others are not. The report is a mishmash of ideas put together as some sort of new plan."

According to Ahime'ir, Shamir did not present Baker with a new peace plan. He said that "at this stage, there is no new Israeli plan except for the May 1989 peace plan. Nevertheless, the United States and Israel exchange ideas." U.S. officials also said last night that they do not know about a new Israeli peace plan.

AFP reported last night that senior Israeli officials, who refused to be identified, said that the new peace plan was presented by Shamir to Secretary of State James Baker at a dinner held on 12 March in Jerusalem.

The senior officials said that, according to the document prepared by the prime minister and the ministers of defense and foreign affairs, Israel presented as a precondition the need for a public declaration by the Arab states that they are ending the state of war and acts of terror against Israel.

The moment that condition is assured, the document says, a regional preparatory conference in Cairo under U.S. auspices and with the participation of Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states will be convened. The officials pointed out that Washington is currently discussing the makeup of that conference.

The officials added that, according to the document, when the conference convenes Israel will announce the date for elections in the territories as part of the interim plan during a period of five years to provide autonomy to the Palestinians, as agreed upon in the Camp David accords.

The sides will also have to announce steps aimed at creating an atmosphere of trust: Israel will announce the reopening of the universities in the territories and the release of most of the detained Palestinians. The Arab states will announce the cessation of the boycott against states which trade with Israel.

After the regional conference there will be direct negotiations between Israel and three of its neighbors—Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, as well as with Saudi Arabia. At

the same time, there will be talks between Israeli and Palestinian delegations to decide on the conditions for the autonomy.

The Israeli officials reported that the United States has already accepted the two points important for Israel: conducting negotiations simultaneously with the Arab states and the Palestinians and the noninclusion of the PLO in peace talks.

Bassam Abu-Sharif, 'Arafat's adviser, rejected the plan yesterday.

TASS Says U.S. Supports West Bank Condominium

TA0204110591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 2 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker favors a condominium-type arrangement for the West Bank involving Israel and Jordan, the Soviet news agency TASS reported last night.

Israel Radio monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reported that, according to a broadcast of an official commentary from TASS in Moscow, the Soviet government also supports a condominium for the West Bank, provided it is established as an interim arrangement.

The agency said the U.S. had passed on this idea to the Soviet Union and to Israel recently.

Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval personally heard about the idea from Baker at their meeting last week. Shoval, who is here for Pessah, reported it to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and two or three top ministers.

Jerusalem said nothing publicly after Shoval's report, but in the wake of the TASS commentary, Shamir's bureau chief Yosi Ahime'ir said the Soviet news agency was putting the cart before the horse.

"Before any negotiating machinery has even been discussed, the Soviets have already approved the outcome of the process," Ahime'ir said. "As Israel sees it, the first point on the agenda must be to talk about the process and thus settle the machinery, which could bring about an agreement on the issues and an eventual outcome."

"In any case, Jordan's situation is that it withdrew officially from all involvement in the affairs of the Palestinians. That remains unchanged."

Ahime'ir's comment suggested that Jerusalem had been taken aback by Baker's proposal, but preferred to criticize it indirectly, at least until Shoval returns to Washington.

Political, Economic Situation in Territories Viewed

TA0404190791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of activities in the territories, today said that there is no single solution to the problem of knife attacks. He asserted that the solution to this phenomenon was a series of military steps that are designed to bring about deterrence. Amir Hay, our correspondent in the territories spoke with Maj. Gen. Rothschild today.

[Begin recording] [Hay] Is it possible today to see any signs of readiness by the Palestinian leadership in the territories to negotiate with Israel while ignoring the PLO bosses in Tunis?

[Rothschild] Before anything else, we have to understand what the field is. There is no single opinion in the streets. There are many political trends and currents on the streets and sometimes they contrast with each other. There are certain interested parties whose goals clash with each other. Therefore, when we speak of the field, we have to understand who we are talking about. There is certainly a process of self-criticism. There is criticism of the PLO by the locals. This phenomenon grew stronger after the Gulf war. Nevertheless, I am sorry to say, there is still a lot of fear about PLO terror toward anyone who deviates from the PLO line and this is what is preventing some of the people who would like to challenge the PLO's status, decisions, and control from coming out in public with their views.

[Hay] The economic distress in the territories is manifested, among other things, by a high rate of unemployment. How does the Civil Administration handle this problem?

[Rothschild] Well, the Civil Administration tackles this issue from several angles: One, by an extensive attempt to create sources of employment in Samaria, Judea, and the Gaza Strip. Our intention is to establish systems that could employ workers and thus bring about a much higher degree of prosperity in the area. At the same time, the Civil Administration, as a matter of policy, helps the populace set out for work in Israel by recognizing their need to work and earn money in Israel. All this, of course, is subject to the security instructions and limitations that the defense establishment justifiably places on the exit and entry of workers to and from work in Israel in order to guarantee the safety of Israeli civilians. [end recording]

Soldier, Collaborator Attacked; 12 Injured

TA0304193991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] A female student tried to stab an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier with a knife in Rafah today. Our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay reports that the incident took place this afternoon. The soldier's partner managed to seize the girl and wrest the knife out of her hands.

Masked men attacked 35-year-old Salah Halhul in Tulkarm today. He was suspected of cooperating with the authorities. The man sustained moderate to severe injuries and was taken to the hospital.

Disturbances and incidents of stone throwing took place in Hebron and at other locations in Samaria today. Arab sources reported 12 injured residents; however, the IDF spokesman asserted that no one had been hurt.

Violence in Territories; Shooting Incidents Cited

TA2903142291

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 29 March in a page 24 report by Jon Immanuel reports that "In Bethlehem, a firebomb was thrown at the police station in Manger Square, slightly wounding a soldier. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed the area.

"A group of 10 masked youths outside Nur al-Shams camp, near Tulkarm, reportedly threw two firebombs at the car of Rabbi Avraham Tsur'el from Shavey Shomron, as he was driving toward Ennab with a load of gas canisters. He said he scared off the attackers by leaping from his car and firing towards them. He later found an axe at the site.

"Palestinian sources described clashes in Nablus yesterday as like the beginning of the 'intifadah.' Two youths were slightly injured and hospitalized." The report notes that "a firebomb was thrown at a military jeep near al-Watani Hospital, setting it alight.

"In an incident in the morning near al-Salam mosque on Haifa Street, Palestinian sources said soldiers beat at least 100 men and several wives and sisters. There was no confirmation of these incidents in Nablus from military sources." The report adds that "Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, yesterday issued its leaflet no. 72 calling for a general strike on Land Day tomorrow."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 29 March in a page A2 report by Yizhar Be'er quotes military sources as reporting that "since the beginning of the intifadah there have been at least 188 incidents of shooting at Israeli citizens and soldiers in the territories. These figures are much higher than anything published so far. In addition, 28 incidents in which live grenades were hurled at Israelis and at soldiers during the intifadah. Since the inception of the Gulf war, there have been 10 incidents of shooting in the territories, and there have been two cases of shooting since the war ended—both this week." HA'ARETZ notes that "most of the shooting incidents took place in the West Bank (154 cases) and less in the Gaza Strip (34 cases). During the second and third years of the intifadah there was a marked increase in the incidents in which firearms were used, as opposed to the first year. The report asserts that "military sources claimed that the IDF does not report all the incidents in which Palestinians used firearms, to create an illusion of relative quiet."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 29 March in a page 2 report by Doron Me'iri recounts that "a 30-year-old Arab woman last night attempted to stab Tzvi Biton, a Civil Guard volunteer in the Baq'a neighborhood of Jerusalem."

Reportage on U.S. Congressional Delegation's Visit**Senate President Receives Delegation**

NC0404174391 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1610 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Amman, 4 Apr (PETRA)—Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has said that Jordan has strongly welcomed President George Bush's call to solve the Palestinian issue in accordance with the land-for-peace equation. He said the call was welcomed worldwide.

Receiving a U.S. congressional delegation at parliament headquarters at noon today, al-Lawzi added that the Middle East—which represents the heart of the world—needs, more than any other hot bed of tension in the world, a just and comprehensive peace for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and for solving the Palestinian problem by ending the occupation, applying international legitimacy, and implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions recognize the land-for-peace principle.

He noted that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, exerted strenuous efforts in the past years to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and that Jordan is still committed to this stance strategically, ethically, and in principle, and is able to play a unique role in this respect due to King Husayn's association with the Palestinian cause since its inception.

He emphasized that the Western, Islamic, and Arab countries are now waiting for a positive step toward the implementation of international legitimacy to solve the Middle East problem. He said this is especially so because the current opportunity has never existed before in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He pointed out that the Arab peoples are looking forward to a genuine friendship with the United States, based on fruitful cooperation and serious contribution to peace, world civilization, and the perpetuation of values and human rights to ensure security and stability for all.

The Senate president said that Jordan, which is linked to the United States with distinguished relations, finds itself in agreement with the United States within the context of the principles established on a background of justice, security, and peace which unify the dealing with world issues.

The secretary general of parliament attended the meeting.

House Speaker Meets Delegation

NC0404181991 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1600 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Amman, 4 Apr (PETRA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, met this morning at the parliament the U.S. congressional delegation currently visiting Jordan as part of a regional tour.

The meeting involved a discussion of the Palestinian issue, the current peace initiatives, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the future of the Gulf region, the type and size of the postwar military presence, and the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Speaker 'Arabiyyat underlined the importance of preserving Iraq's territorial integrity, of avoiding foreign intervention in Iraqi internal affairs, and of helping that country rebuild itself after the war and provide food for its people.

Dr. 'Arabiyyat said that we hope that the new international order would be based on ethical, humane, and civilized principles and that it would not throw the region back to the times of imperialism and slavery, the fruits of which were the divisions and dismembering that produced current animosities and rivalries. He added that a new order imposed by force will not be acceptable.

Dr. 'Arabiyyat said that Arab nations believe in a just peace that guarantees the rights of all. Such a peace should be based on international legitimacy whose standards must be applied equally to all issues.

The Jordanian speaker praised the eagerness of the American people to defend human rights and to enter into scientific and cultural exchanges with other world nations. He expressed the hope that this same eagerness will be the standard guiding the official dealings of the U.S. Administration. Dr. 'Arabiyyat said that Arab nations are eager to base their relations with the United States on an equitable basis and to find a common language and terms to serve human civilization and causes. He said they want to move away from the logic of force and hegemony.

The meeting was attended by a number of representatives and the secretary general of the parliament.

King Meets With U.S. Congressman

NC0404194991 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1720 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Amman, 4 Apr (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received Les Aspin, chairman of the Armed Service Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the impact of the Gulf crisis on the region, and the current proposals for finding a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The U.S. ambassador to Amman also attended the meeting.

Islamists Refuse Meeting

NC0404142591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Apr 91 p 18

[Text] Amman—The Islamic movement deputies in the House of Representatives have refused to meet with the head and members of a delegation of the Armed Services

Committee of the U.S. Congress who are visiting Jordan, due to the U.S. aggressive policies against our Arab and Muslim peoples.

In a letter to U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roger Harrison in response to a request for organizing this meeting, representative Ahmad al-Azayidah, Islamic movement official spokesman, said: We had hoped that there would be no obstacles to prevent this meeting, because our religion urges us to deal with people amicably and to maintain relations among nations to serve mankind. However, the U.S. Government's crimes to destroy our Arab and Muslim nation's power, especially the U.S. oppressive war against our brothers in Iraq and its support for Israel, the aggressor, renders this meeting unfeasible.

The letter pointed out that the United States through its aggressive policies is entering into a bitter and long conflict with our peoples and that it will inevitably lose in the end.

Al-Masri Comments on King's Tour of Europe

NC0304062591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2100/GAFT-4 (pp.4)

[Text] Foreign Minister Taha al-Masri has said that the purpose of recent Jordanian moves on the Arab and international fronts is to explain Jordan's views on regional issues. He asserted that His Majesty King Husayn's tour of France and Germany was successful and fruitful.

In a statement on Jordan television this evening, he pointed out that Jordan's geographical and political status dictates that it must remain on the move. He noted that His Majesty King Husayn's tour of France and Germany was very important because it was the first such tour of European countries after the Gulf war. These countries, I can say, understand Jordan's view and the situation in the region in general. The tour also took place immediately before the European countries' summit, due to be held on Monday [1 April] to discuss the situation in the region and in the Middle East.

He said it was very useful for his majesty to confer with these leaders to acquaint Europe with the region's situation and with Jordan's ideas. He noted that Europe, from Jordan's point of view, is still an important base for activity, because Europe has influence in the region and with the United States. Also, the European and Arab regions complement each other in many ways and are affected by one another.

He said: We felt in the European countries an understanding of the Jordanian position and of Jordan's trends and ideas.

Commenting on his tour of the Arab Maghreb countries, he said it was successful.

He emphasized that Jordan believes that it necessary to resume joint Arab action, especially if we want to deal with the Palestinian issue, and that plans may be proposed and ideas may form.

He said: I believe that matters will improve in the coming months, or perhaps in the coming weeks.

On talks held with officials in the United States by 'Adnan Abu-Awdah, political adviser to His Majesty King Husayn, he said these talks were in continuation of earlier talks or contacts that were held at a lower level. He said the purpose of these talks is to become acquainted with each other's views. The talks did not result in any particular outcome or any new ideas, and they were solely to hold consultations and exchange views.

He stressed the importance of Jordan's participation in the current negotiations and contacts, so that Jordan will be able, in cooperation with others, to form and crystallize ideas and proposals to deal with the region's issues.

Comparison of King's Comments on W. Europe Visit

CA0054143091

Amman Jordan Television Network (in Arabic) at 1800 GMT on 3 April broadcasts a report on King Husayn's remarks following his tour of France and Germany. The Amman TV version has been compared with the Amman Domestic Service version published on page 20 of the 4 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT under the headline: "King Returns, Comments on Visit to West Europe," and found to be identical, allowing for the following fills and clarifications:

Paragraph three, first sentence reads: [Begin King Husayn recording] There is great interest in all that is taking place. The visit was... (clearing indistinct words);

Paragraph four, last sentence reads: ...in the course of events toward the best, and toward just, honorable, and lasting solutions.

As I have.... (clearing indistinct words);

Penultimate paragraph, second sentence reads: ...the Palestinian level so that the Arab Palestinian people would exercise their right to allow their leadership to express its views and contribute to the peace process, and also at the Arab-Israeli level within the international efforts being exerted to find a final solution.

There is also.... (deleting editorial notation, rewording).

Muslim Brotherhood Moves To Reassert Popularity

JN0404083591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
4-5 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Faced with media reports and widespread popular belief that its support is declining

amongst the masses, the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, by far the best organized and biggest political group in Jordan, is taking a new initiative apparently to prove observers and "detractors" wrong.

The movement is organizing a major rally for Friday, April 5, which many observers say is aimed, among other things, to serve as a major test of strength in the aftermath of the Gulf war and joining Mr. Mudar Badran's government.

The rally, which is organized on the occasion of Fath Mecca Day (the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad reentering the Holy City after being driven out to the town of Medina earlier on) is held under the banner of "Rejection of American-Zionist Hegemony."

In large advertisements carried by Arabic dailies, the Brotherhood highlighted three slogans for the rally: "No to the elimination of the Palestinian cause," "No to American-Atlantic presence on Iraqi and Gulf soil" and "No to the degrading American conditions (imposed) on Iraq."

The last pro-Iraq, anti-U.S. rally held by the movement and other Islamic groups in October drew an estimated crowd of 100,000 people—an unprecedented attendance of any political rally in the Kingdom. A similar demonstration by the combined leftist parties drew only around 10,000 people soon afterwards.

Some political observers contend that the Brotherhood, and the Islamic trend generally, has lost ground among traditional supporters following Iraq's military defeat in the Gulf war and possibly also because Muslim Brothers joined the government in January.

There have been reports in the Arab and international media that said the movement appeared to be losing popularity in Jordan after being seen to have neglected pledges to ease economic problems in the Kingdom and launch jihad to help Iraq in its war against the U.S.-led coalition.

The reports maintained that the Brotherhood made huge gains in the November 1989 national elections on promises that Islam held the answer to Jordan's economic, social and political ills. Five Brotherhood members later joined the government, a move which some critics of the movement now say contributed to their "downslide."

While the issue of the impact of the movement joining the government remains largely unsettled, even controversial observers and analysts claim that the position the Brothers had taken on the Gulf war and the outcome of the fighting has certainly weakened popular support for them.

"The war in the Gulf was portrayed as one between good and evil by the Islamists, as mainly represented by the Brotherhood," said a former minister who is also a keen observer of Islamic groups. "When Iraq lost, people were disenchanted with propagators of this line," he added. "Mythology had lost to technology, and this is how support for the Brotherhood declined."

Even though spokesmen for the Brotherhood publicly deny any decline in their popularity and dismiss as "smear and detractor campaigns" media reports about such "loss of support," observers and analysts agree that it was not only the Brotherhood Movement that suffered a setback in view of what happened in the Gulf. Other political groups also did, they said, but relative to the numbers, the Muslim Brotherhood, because it is largest, probably lost the biggest share.

Dr. Musa al-Kilani, the Arabic daily al-Dustur's deputy editor and author of several research papers on Islamic movements in Jordan, puts the percentage of "decline" as "something between 10 and 25 per cent."

"If we want to be conservative we would say 10 per cent," Dr. al-Kilani said, adding that that ratio "is similar to the decline in support for other political parties which allied themselves with Iraq during the crisis."

"The Brotherhood identified itself with and bet on Iraq's victory, which reflected negatively on them when Iraq lost badly," Dr. al-Kilani added.

An official at the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs maintained that attendance in mosques "has dropped by 40 to 50 per cent." The official, who did not want to be named, pointed out that "this was the result of the general demoralized mood that gripped the country after the end of the war and Iraq's compliance with all U.N.-imposed resolutions against it." Many, but not all, mosque goers back Islamic political groups, the largest of which is the Brotherhood. Some of the movement's supporters, interviewed by the Jordan Times, expressed disappointment over the Brotherhood's lack of practical support for Iraq during the war. "They have shown us that they are only good at talking," one of them said.

A cabinet minister recently told the Jordan Times that the government "was able to neutralise the opposition by incorporating them into the government," in an apparent reference to the Brotherhood.

In rejecting these claims, however, the movement's spiritual leader, Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah said his group's decision to join Mr. Badran's government was "an emergency measure."

He added that the decision to support participation of the movement in the government was the result of what "we saw as a glimpse of hope with which this marginal participation the Brotherhood could share in serving this country positively through what is available to us legally and politically."

He denied claims that the Brotherhood has abandoned its calls for political and economic reform in the country, saying that "if solutions to certain economic and political problems have been delayed that does not mean the Muslim Brotherhood has discarded them or conceded on them."

On backing for Iraq, Shaykh Khalifah told the Jordan Times that Baghdad's call to linkage between a solution

to the Iraq-Kuwait crisis and ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine was the source of that support.

"Jordan is closely connected to the Palestine problem. And when the Brotherhood felt that Iraq and its army understood the threat of the presence of a Zionist entity in the blood-thirsty country that calls itself Israel... the movement was of the opinion of supporting Iraq because it has the power to stop Zionism at the limits of freedom and human rights," Shaykh Khalifah, who is a practising sharia lawyer, pointed out.

The movement perceives its stance during the Gulf crisis as an anti-Israel position rather than one siding with Iraq. "We are not regretful of our clear position against the Zionist octopus and those who supported it. Time will be the judge," Shaykh Khalifah said.

Other Brotherhood spokesmen lashed out at journalists who wrote articles on the group's "declining support." Writing in the movement's new weekly publication *Al-Ribat*, the unnamed political editor of the magazine called for "thoughtful reading" into the "undemocratic" analysis of the writers.

He described one Reuter report on the issue as "provocative" and said it lacked credibility because it did not provide statistics to support its argument. The editor implicitly also criticised the *Jordan Times* for carrying it and cast doubt on Reuter's credentials as an impartial news agency.

Defending the group's position on Iraq, *Al-Ribat* wrote: "It is as if the Brotherhood is in control of armies, bombers, tanks and missiles and did not move them to support Iraq."

In reply to another article that appeared recently in the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Hayah*, in which the movement was called "Jordan's Likud" because of its uncompromising position on the Palestine issue, an unsigned statement by the Brotherhood said: "We don't know what is so shameful about the Brotherhood's stance rejecting any dealings with the Zionist body in any form and insisting on the liberation of all Palestine

from the sea to the river, which is a position shared by many forces, Palestinian, Arab and Islamist, in all parts of the world."

"We would have liked (the writer of the article) to call things by their name: The Muslim Brothers are Muslim Brothers and there is no need to call them Jordan's Likud," the statement added.

"The writer of the article asks how the Brothers can reconcile their participation in the government through holding five posts in a government of 22 members with their 'spiritual leadership' which holds a position that contradicts the peaceful solution that the government believes in," the statement went on.

"The Brotherhood poses a question back (to the writer) on how he assumed that ministers who are not members of the Brotherhood accept a peaceful solution. The truth is that a number of non-Brotherhood ministers share the same stance with the Brotherhood ministers in rejecting peaceful solution proposals... so should every minister who holds a different opinion resign?"

The statement said that the most dangerous element in the (writer's) article is "the underlying and dangerous hints which may shed light on the evil plans against the march of democracy in our dear country."

It concluded by saying: "The writer assumes that the United States cannot force the Zionist enemy to apply international legitimacy unless the Jordanian government forces the radical parties in Jordan to accept a peaceful solution (and we do not think he means any other than the Brothers)."

In the meantime, observers and analysts say that the number of people attending Friday's rally may put an end to claims on either side on the issue of continued popularity or not.

"The Brotherhood is holding this rally to show the sceptics that it still exudes power on the popular level," said the former minister who was interviewed by the *Jordan Times*. "But we must also understand that whatever the turnout it would not change our belief that some decline has taken place."

Junblatt To Surrender Weapons to Syria

NC0404133491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt has said that he will not surrender his arms to the government but will turn them over to Syria, since the struggle continues, albeit peacefully, specifically on the political and democratic fronts. Peace is no easy proposition, especially while the Phalangist forces still retain heavy weaponry. He said that the state is still backed by Arab reactionaries, like Saudi Arabia. Junblatt said the nationalist parties must integrate their young cadres into the army to protect us in case our position is compromised. He added that the future is still unclear.

Junblatt on Weapons, Palestinian Action in South

NC0404134491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt has explained his position on disbanding the militias. In a statement issued today, Junblatt announced that the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] is willing to hand over all its weapons within a plan that balances disarmament and the recruitment of PSP fighters into the Lebanese Army, the Internal Security Forces, and other institutions.

Junblatt said the party will hand over its weapons to their rightful owner; that is, Syria. He added that he does not object to handing over any equipment belonging to the Lebanese state to Lebanese authorities.

Junblatt said he hopes a practical plan will be drawn up soon to implement other pending issues, chiefly Resolution 425.

Junblatt criticized the PLO's stand on the Gulf war. He said: It must be understood that we will not accept a return to the previous situation, by which he said he meant the south's being used as a springboard for attacks against Israel will not serve any purpose now.

He added: What is needed is a reasonable dialogue that will safeguard the dignity of the south and the dignity of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples under Lebanese law. Junblatt said: It is necessary to clarify here that until Israel withdraws from the border zone, resistance against the Israeli presence is a right as well as a duty.

Junblatt was astonished at reports that claim he accused Saudi Arabia of conspiring against Lebanon. He said this is not true and the recent initial installment of aid that Saudi Arabia extended to Lebanon is proof that the Kingdom is concerned with maintaining stability, prosperity, and reconstruction in this country.

Committees To Contact Militias, Accept Weapons

NC0404172891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The ministerial committee concerned with the establishment of the state's authority over all Lebanese territory met today. During its meeting, which ended early this afternoon, the committee adopted several measures. Minister Albert Mansur summed up these actions: Two committees have been formed. One committee, with Defense Minister Michel al-Murr and Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib, will have contacts with the Lebanese militias. The other committee, comprising Ministers Nabih Birri, Muhsin Dallul, and Albert Mansur, will have contacts with non-Lebanese militias.

Another committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Justice Minister Khatchig Babikian. Its members are the army commander, the director general of the internal security forces, the director general of state security, the director general of public security forces, a representative of the civil service council, the director general of the Interior Ministry, and representatives of the militias. This committee is to study how militia members can be incorporated into the national institutions.

The defense minister told the committee that the cabinet has begun preparing committees to designate where the weapons are to be handed over and the types of heavy- and medium-caliber weapons that must be surrendered. These committees will commence their activities this week. The ministerial committee will meet at the beginning of the coming week.

Minister al-Murr held a news conference after the meeting. He said: The atmosphere is positive as far as the representatives of the militias are concerned. We have dates and our task is not to amend these dates. Minister al-Murr said that the non-Lebanese militias include every gunman on Lebanese territory who does not carry Lebanese identity documents. He emphasized that the weapons must be handed over to the Lebanese state within a specific period and that the leaders concerned are preparing a decision on where the weapons are to be handed over. This decision, he said, will be published soon.

On his part, Minister Roger Dib noted that the atmosphere during the meeting was positive and constituted a reasonably good starting point. Minister Dib briefed Minister al-Murr on the Lebanese Forces' views regarding the dissolution of the militias.

Palestinians Cannot Be 'Exception' in Disbandment

PM0404134791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 31 Mar 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Lebanon Refuses To Conclude Any Agreement To Organize Armed Palestinian Presence"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Lebanese Government source yesterday emphasized that the Lebanese Government unequivocally refuses to conclude any new agreement with the PLO vis-a-vis the position of Palestinian arms in Lebanon, because that conflicts with Lebanon's sovereignty over its territory and exposes it to several dangers.

The source said: There is unanimity inside the Lebanese Government that there can be no return to formulas of coexistence with the armed groups or to agreements that impair the Lebanese Government's authority over its territory.

The source added: In the early seventies Palestinian armament was among the reasons that led to the spread of the Lebanese armed militias phenomenon in Lebanon. And when the state decides to disband the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, acceptance of any exception is out of the question.

The source wondered what achievements the Palestinian armed presence has realized in southern Lebanon. The source pointed out that the operations launched against Israel had inflicted heavy losses on southern Lebanon and its inhabitants. The source said that the ministerial committee entrusted with following up the question of disbanding the militias will make contacts with the Palestinian side, but these contacts will not take the form of negotiations. And the Lebanese decision is not to conclude any new agreement.

Sources in Beirut believe that if the Palestinian organizations refuse to hand over their arms to the Lebanese authorities, that could lead to a large-scale confrontation near Sidon in southern Lebanon, where over 10,000 Palestinian fighters are stationed.

The sources add that the Lebanese Army could in such a case seek help from the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon. Meanwhile, sources in east Beirut expect the coming days to witness a new round of contacts between Syria and the "Lebanese Forces" [LF] with a view to overcoming the obstacles hampering implementation of the decision to disband the militias. The sources said that the "Forces" did not reject the principle of disbanding the militias and that in doing so they agreed to the al-Ta'if agreement, but the LF is seeking to obtain guarantees that all militias will hand over all their arms. This is in addition to guarantees concerning the future of the political situation in Lebanon.

Observers believe that the scale of Arab and international support for Lebanese legitimacy is allowing the militias no opportunity to maneuver. And militia leaders are aware of the price that any group could pay if it decides to clash with Arab and international will.

Sa'adah on Parliamentary Appointments, Cabinet

NC0404200791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Phalangist Party leader and Minister Dr. George Sa'adah visited Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi today. After the meeting, Dr. Sa'adah said that meetings are continuing to formulate a comprehensive view on the situation in Lebanon, especially the democratic situation with regard to elections, social justice, and other urgent social issues.

Responding to a question, Dr. Sa'adah said that the views of the Phalangist and Communist Parties are close on the issues of parliamentary appointments and the dissolution of militias. He added that all parties in Lebanon adhere to democracy and that the Lebanese public, especially the upcoming generation, opposes the appointment of deputies despite the fact that it is stipulated in the al-Ta'if agreement.

Dr. Sa'adah emphasized that if the possibilities exist to hold parliamentary elections, we must not adhere to the letter of the al-Ta'if agreement.

When asked whether he will participate in cabinet meetings, Dr. Sa'adah said: We are holding contacts to come to an agreement on the procedure of work at the cabinet. The logic of having a majority and a minority inside the cabinet is unacceptable to us in the present circumstances because it obstructs political work and the practice of democracy.

Dr. Sa'adah added: There is a government and there is an opposition, but to have loyal and opposition parties inside the government simultaneously is undesirable as far as we are concerned.

George Hawi discussed the similarity in views between the two parties and called on all parties to adopt a positive attitude to achieve an understanding on all important issues.

LF's Ja'ja' Outlines Elections Proposal

NC0404204091 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1715 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Lebanese Forces [LF] Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' addressed an open message to the Lebanese nation's deputies in which he explains the LF's views regarding the appointment of deputies. He said that this issue is pivotal in our political life because it touches the heart of our democratic concepts. He added: Hence, we have sought, demonstrating good faith and a sense of responsibility, to convince his excellency the president, the prime minister, and the Council of Ministers of our attitude in this regard, which is the attitude of the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people.

The LF commander affirmed that it would be possible to hold parliamentary elections. He submitted a three-point proposal to achieve this objective. Here are the three points he proposed:

First, the current government should decide to call for holding by-elections within three months of the time the call is made. This should be done in accordance with a new election law to be agreed upon by all cabinet ministers.

Second, the election processes for most governorates and for part of the southern Lebanon Governorate in the area which is now under the control of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon must be conducted within the bounds of Greater Beirut. These elections should be conducted in cooperation with the Lebanese Army for the vacant deputy seats.

Third, elections should be conducted under the political supervision of the Lebanese Government and the Arab Tripartite Committee, and the security supervision of the Lebanese Army.

Dr. Ja'ja' urged the government to hold a referendum on the issue in the constituencies concerned. In light of the outcome of the referendum, the government may reserve its right to appoint deputies. This way we will have done our best to implement the al-Ta'if accord to the letter. Likewise, we will have safeguarded the minimum components of democracy in this country.

AL-SAFIR: Hostage Issue 'In State of Stagnation'

NC0404140891 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
3 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] REUTER has cited a senior fundamentalist official in Beirut as saying that the issue of the 12 western hostages in Lebanon is currently in a state of stagnation despite the current diplomatic activity and reports of their imminent release.

The fundamentalist official said: "Despite all the noise made by Western diplomats and journalists, the hostage issue is in a state of stagnation."

He said the hostage issue was discussed during Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis' visit to Tehran last week, but ruled out an imminent breakthrough on the matter.

The fundamentalist official said: "The Iranians are very patient. They take their time when it comes to a change of policy or retracting a decision like the one concerning the hostages."

We note that Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber, whose country handles U.S. interests in Iran, arrived in Tehran for a three-day visit yesterday.

The U.S. news agency AP quoted Tehran sources as saying that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ez's visit to Switzerland last month was to conduct an indirect dialogue with Washington.

The sources explained that the Iranian officials sensed, through their indirect contacts with the Americans, "an unprecedented seriousness" regarding a comprehensive resolution of the hostage issue.

Clashes With SLA Reported East of Sidon

NC0504111991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Clashes involving the use of automatic and rocket weapons took place at dawn today along the combat lines of Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir between the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and armed organizations. The clashes began to abate at 0900.

A military source of the Nasirite Popular Organization accused the SLA of causing the flare-up in the military situation, noting that some organization members were wounded.

Radio Reports Clashes in Southern Lebanon

NC0404050791 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Southern Lebanon was the scene of bloody battles today. Israeli attacks on some villages were so ferocious that a number of casualties fell in enemy and resistance ranks. Our correspondent in resistant southern Lebanon said that this morning a mechanized force of the Israeli occupation troops and agent militias attempted to advance in the direction of the town of Bra'shit after intensive artillery shelling. Our correspondent added that resistance members confronted the enemy troops and agents. Clashes ensued in which various types of weapons were used. As a result of these clashes, the occupation troops were forced to retreat to their positions inside the occupied border strip.

A statement issued by the Lebanese Resistance Battalions, Amal, said that resistance members forced the enemy troops to retreat after inflicting a number of casualties on them. A resistance member was martyred and one was wounded. The wounded resistance member was hospitalized.

The enemy radio acknowledged these clashes. It reported that two resistance members fell in the battle.

In a related development, our correspondent in western al-Biqa' stated that the occupation troops' artillery deployed in Kawkaba this morning shelled Jabal Abu Rashid, the environs of Maydun, al-Surayri forests, and the al-Dallafah bridge. No casualties were reported. Only material damage was reported.

Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Returns From Moscow

NC0504060191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus last night after concluding a short working visit to Moscow during which he met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He held two rounds of talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh.

Arab-Israeli Conflict Viewed

NC0404174191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the Kremlin this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Syrian Ambassador to Moscow 'Isam al-Na'ib.

Views were exchanged on the Middle East situation and on international efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. They also reviewed the postwar situation in the Gulf.

President Gorbachev underscored the importance of Syrian-Soviet relations and direct contacts and meetings between the two countries' presidents, particularly at this stage. He asked al-Shar' to convey his best wishes and greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syrian-Soviet talks began at 0930 today between al-Shar' and his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Syrian Ambassador to Moscow 'Isam al-Na'ib and the head of the Eastern Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry and on the Soviet side by Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov and Soviet Ambassador to Damascus Aleksandr Zotov. The talks dealt with the Middle East situation, a just and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and bilateral relations.

Ministers al-Shar' and Bessmertnykh will resume their talks later today.

Al-Shar': Every Chance of Arab-Israeli Settlement

PM0504090291 London ITV Television Network
in English 1930 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by presenter Sir John Thompson in Damascus; date not given—from the "Dispatches" program; recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Thompson] One of those closest to [President] al-Asad is Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister, who rarely gives interviews. I asked him whether the Israelis were right in saying that Syria was unwilling to negotiate.

[Al-Shar'] Well, in fact it's the reverse. The impression that we had, for a long time, that the Israelis are trying to run away from making genuine peace in the region.

There is every possibility now—especially now and even in the past—to make a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. What we want is an international conference where all the parties concerned can meet and discuss a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on United Nations Resolutions.

[Thompson] So, the Israelis could feel secure after such an agreement?

[Al-Shar'] Certainly they would feel secure, and the Arab side would feel secure, and everybody in the region would feel secure, because after all, if the solution is based on international legitimacy, and the United Nations charter and UN resolutions, then the countries would feel secure.

[Thompson] Your top priority, I take it, would be an independent Palestinian state?

[Al-Shar'] Well, the Palestinians must have self-determination. This is up to them to have an independent state or any other form of independence. [passage omitted] Well, it is important, because the Golan Heights are a particular part of Syria. Certainly, we would like to see all the Arab occupied territories back to the Arab side. We want the international community and the Western countries to stand firm against occupation, because occupation remains occupation, whether it was made by the Israelis or the Iraqi Government. That's not acceptable. United Nations resolutions have to be abided by, have to be respected. If we want to work for a new international order, then we have to be fair with the Arabs in this crisis, and we have to be honest in implementing United Nations resolutions. In other words, we have to be honest in using one standard.

[Thompson] There has been so much bitterness over the last 40 years or so. Do you think that Arabs and Israelis can live peacefully together, or are they irreconcilable?

[Al-Shar'] They can, if the Israelis would give up the dream of a greater Israel, would implement United Nations Security Council resolutions, and would withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories. I think this possibility is there. [passage omitted]

Objectives of Current Diplomatic Activity Viewed

NC0404190491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syrian Arab political moves are under way on more than one level and in more than one field. Immediately after the end of the Gulf war, Damascus became a major destination for many Arab and international delegations. Damascus then took the additional step of contacting several Arab and world capitals. A summit was held in Cairo between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Hosni Mubarak. Vice President Khaddam

paid a visit to Tripoli and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited both Jeddah and Moscow.

It is natural that Syria should concentrate its efforts, engage in diverse political and diplomatic activities, and assume its considerable historic responsibility, because the Gulf war has cast a dark shadow on the Arab situation and the specter of fragmentation and collapse was ominous. It was necessary for Damascus to play the exceptional role for which it is well-qualified, because throughout the past phase Damascus has proved the correctness of its vision, the genuineness of its positions, and the soundness of its approach to various events in the region.

Syria is engaged in intensive political activity in this critical and crucial moment. This activity, which is being managed with the prudence, courage, and great pan-Arab commitment of President Hafiz al-Asad, aims at enabling the Arabs to take a firm hold on the course of events before it is too late. In other words, the Arabs should take the initiative before other initiatives that they do not want are imposed on them.

Therefore, the Syrian Arab activities come under the heading of defending the interests and rights of the Arab people and their role in shaping the geography and history of this region in the post-Gulf war era.

This is the crux of Syrian Arab activity, which is based on the conviction that the Arabs should assume their responsibilities in these hard conditions to benefit from the circumstances following the Gulf war concerning the full role that must be played by international legitimacy. This means that the international community is called upon to tackle the issues of the entire region by the same standards. The way in which the international community viewed the Gulf crisis should provide the standards for dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

There is an abiding need for the international community to eliminate the source of war and tension in the region and establish peace based on UN principles through the well-known UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 344; namely, through an international conference in which all concerned parties participate.

Syria's views on that issue are not new, but are derived from its pan-Arab position. Syria, along with the rest of the Arab sides, has accepted the international conference, approved UN resolutions, and welcomed international cooperation to establish just and comprehensive peace.

It goes without saying that a just and comprehensive peace cannot be built on the basis of the preconditions set by the Tel Aviv rulers, but rather on the clear principles stated in UN resolutions; namely, Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The Zionist entity is using all its means to capitalize on the outcome of the Gulf crisis and its bitter Arab consequences. This is why that entity is increasing its arrogance and conceit and reiterating its total rejection of a just peace.

The Arabs, however, are still capable of correcting the imbalance in the regional equation. The Arabs are still capable, in deed and not just rhetoric, of being the masters of their own future. What may weaken the Arab position, though, is hesitation, animosity, and disagreement among Arab sides. The old Arab proverb says: A man's place is where he places himself. The Arabs' place is on the stage of events where they place themselves, which depends on how much effort, solidarity, and unity they can muster. This is the only way the Arabs can restore their full rights and stay ahead of the regional game.

Iraqi People Cannot Compromise With Regime

*NC0304064391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the popular revolution in Iraq, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Iraqi people's current suffering is a real tragedy in the full sense of the word. It is sad to say that the battle being waged by the sons of this people against the ruling regime in various parts of Iraq is a fateful battle and one of life or death. The battle leaves no room for appeasement, bargaining, or compromise after the executioner's terrorism surpassed all bounds and touched every family and every home.

The paper says: The Baghdad regime's insistence on crushing and repressing the Iraqi people's will, its continued destruction of Iraq, and turning its territory into seas of blood is being carried out to fulfill the regime's conceit and despotism and to provide a free service to the enemies of Iraq and the nation.

The paper says: In light of this situation, the sons of Mesopotamia are left with no choice but to rise, confront the regime, and continue the revolution until victory as the only means of attaining salvation and halting the tragedy.

Damascus Reports Interview with Minister

*NC0404172091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Damascus—Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that the Damascus Declaration provides an important opportunity for the Arabs to undertake joint action from a pan-Arab perspective and in a spirit of collective responsibility.

The minister said Israel constitutes a threat to all Arabs. He said Israel is the party that refuses to implement Security Council resolutions and practices state terrorism.

In an interview published by the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, the minister said that Syria is following up the development of the U.S. position after the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and George Bush and in light of the results of the Syrian-U.S. summit on current issues.

He said: Syria develops its international relations in accordance with the principles that serve the national and pan-Arab interests within the framework of respect for Arab and international laws and charters. Dialogue with the United States is based on these principles.

Asked about the call by European countries to convene a conference for security and cooperation in the region, the minister said: The problems in the region have their own distinctive features. The nature of those problems must be determined before discussing the details of the proposed solutions. The Damascus Declaration, for example, which is based on the interests and objectives of countries that belong to a single Arab nation, is different from the 1975 Helsinki Conference, in which the European countries agreed to end the negative consequences of World War II.

But the problems in the region are many. Some are related to the Arab situation, some are related to the regional situation, and some are connected with the Arab-Israeli conflict. It goes without saying that the proposed structure for resolving those problems can remain only theoretical unless it is preceded by the implementation of the international resolutions on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the securing of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights.

Regarding the security arrangements discussed in the Damascus Declaration, the minister said: Arab security is an indivisible whole. This is stipulated in the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact. When the eight Arab countries [Syria, Egypt, and the six Gulf Cooperation Council member states] agreed on

practical security arrangements, they did not close the door to the rest of the Arab brothers to contribute to the establishment of the new Arab order in its various economic, political, strategic, and military aspects.

The minister added that the Damascus Declaration gives the Arabs the opportunity to carry out joint action from a pan-Arab perspective and within a spirit of collective responsibility.

Concerning Israeli statements that Syria has not made any positive gesture toward Israel and that it constitutes a threat to it, the minister said: Israel is an aggressive country with which we are in a state of war. It is the only country in the world that practices state terrorism. The statements emerging from Israel are, in some aspects, part of the psychological war to harm our steadfastness and our firm opposition to its expansionist schemes. Additionally, it seeks to deceive the world into believing that it is seeking solutions to our conflict with it, such as the regional conference, which aims at avoiding the implementation of the UN resolutions.

Asked about the Palestine question, the minister said: Our position on the Palestine question is a principled one. We believe it is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is also the center of our efforts and action, through which we seek to reach a solution that would restore to the Palestinian people their national rights and eliminate the Zionist threat, which does not exclude any Arab. We are concerned to maintain our principled position and we will continue our policy to defend the Palestine question and spare it any harm. Our policy will also remain firm as regards our action with the Arab brothers, through a unified stand, to face the Zionist threat aimed against the Arabs and their land, destiny, and future.

Foreign Minister Pays Working Visit to USSR *WA05151591*

For reportage on the 4 April working visit to the USSR by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', including his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 5 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Afghanistan**Najibullah Appeals to World Leaders on Khowst***LD0404195691 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent separate messages addressed to His Excellency Francois Mitterand, president of France; His Excellency Dr. Kurt Waldheim, president of Austria; His Excellency John Major, prime minister of Britain; His Excellency Helmut Kohl, chancellor of the German Republic; His Excellency Vaclav Havel, president of the CSFR; His Excellency Lech Walesa, president of Poland; His Excellency Arpad Goncz, president of Hungary; His Excellency Arnold Koller, president of the Swiss Confederation; His Excellency Mauno Koivisto, president of Finland; His Excellency Francesco Cossiga, president of Italy; and His Excellency Ingvar Carlsson, prime minister of Sweden, on the situation created as a result of the attacks by the extremist opposition with the direct cooperation and instruction of Pakistan's military circles on Khowst. The messages were sent to the capitals of the aforementioned countries with the following text:

Your Excellencies, as you are aware, Afghan extremist opposition groups, with the direct cooperation and instruction of Pakistan's military circles, have recently carried out an orderly military offensive jointly with Pakistan's armed units on the city of Khowst. As a result of Pakistan's artillery and rocket attacks on Khowst, hundreds of nonmilitary compatriots, including women, children, and elderly people, were martyred and injured in that province. Pakistan's military circles embarked on an offensive on Khowst at a time when the favorable international climate has brought about an opportunity to the world countries and nations to solve their internal conflicts by understanding, dialogue, and negotiation. On the other hand, the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan is interested, within a new formality in its foreign policy, to improve its ties with all its neighbors. Especially with regard to Pakistan, we have proposed that instead of military confrontation, economic and good neighborly relations should be established with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

At the sensitive moment, contrary to the principles of coexistence with nations, with flagrant and open violation of the international rights, against the provisions of the Geneva accords, and based on a conspiratorial program to divide the territory of Afghanistan with a greedy eye to the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistan's militants carried out their attacks on Khowst.

We appeal to Your Excellencies and request that you use moral influence and—based on friendship and its accepted principles, that you too support them and believe in them—to assert pressure on Pakistan's government to respect the national sovereignty of the

Republic of Afghanistan, end its attacks on Afghanistan's cities, and deal humanely with the POW's. Otherwise, it is natural that the continuation of such provocation will make the situation more tense and out of control in the region, which will result in intensification of conflicts in the region.

Sends Letter to PRC's Yang*LD0404191491 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent a message to Beijing addressed to His Excellency Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China, on the tense situation and aggression by Pakistan's military forces and terroristic activities by the extremists.

In the message, having explained the plans of Pakistan's military circles and direct cooperation of that country's army and militias with extremist opposition groups in the attack on Khowst city, it has been stated that these aggressive actions by Pakistan are being carried out at a time that positive changes have occurred in the international political arena toward reducing tension and resolving regional conflicts by peaceful means. And during the recent months, with the proposals of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, a tendency has been strengthened toward a peaceful and political solution of the Afghanistan issue among the main sections of the opposition forces and local commanders. And, the absolute majority of Afghanistan's people wait to see the war end as soon as possible. In coordination with these realities, the State of the Republic of Afghanistan has presented several proposals toward the normalization of ties with Pakistan within the framework of the national reconciliation policy. However, Pakistan's military circles still ultimately intend to face the land of Afghans with the threat of division.

Wishes have been expressed in the message that the People's Republic of China, as a neighbor and old friend of Afghanistan's people, take action to prevent Pakistan's aggression against the sacred land of our country and should not allow Pakistan's Government to endanger further peace and stability in the region.

Sends Letter to SFRY's Jovic*LD0404191391 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent the following message to Belgrade on recent events in Khowst as a result of the (?aggression) of Pakistani army and militia units. The message is addressed to Borisav Jovic, president of the SFRY and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement:

His Excellency, president of the SFRY Presidency and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement:

Your Excellency, in expressing my respects I would like to pass on information, as I have informed Your Excellency in the past, about events in Afghanistan and about the general situation resulting from the intervention by the militarists of Pakistan in the affairs of our country. This time, too, I would like to inform you about the most serious intervention by this country, that is to say direct and shameless aggression by the military forces of Pakistan in Khowst Province located on the Afghan-Pakistani border, and to draw the attention of Your Excellency, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, to the (situation) caused by the aggression of Pakistan, which is against all accepted principles of international relations, the UN Charter, the principles of the Non-aligned Movement, and contrary to the accords concluded in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This blatant aggression against the territory of Afghanistan is taking place at a time when the tendency toward a political and peaceful solution to the Afghanistan issue is gaining strength among the majority of the opposition forces and of local commanders as a result of the sincere endeavors of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan launched during recent months. The overwhelming majority of the people of Afghanistan are waiting impatiently for the cessation of war as soon as possible, and within the framework of the policy of national reconciliation the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan recently presented various proposals for the normalization of relations with Pakistan and stretched the hand of friendship to that country.

However, by attacking Khowst, and despite all the peace-seeking efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan, and contrary to the principles of peaceful coexistence and good neighborliness, the militarists of Pakistan, in collaboration with the most extremist section of the Afghan opposition stationed in this country, not only caused the murder and massacre of the defenseless inhabitants of this city, including women, children, and the elderly, but by this aggression further fanned the flames of tension in this region.

In consideration of the sensitivity of the situation, I emphatically ask you, and through you I ask all members of the Nonaligned Movement, to warn Pakistan of its repeated aggression against the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of a neighboring country and a member of the movement, and by utilizing your possibilities at your disposal and your moral authority to convince Pakistan to observing fully the Geneva accords, the UN resolutions, and the resolutions of the ninth nonaligned summit regarding the political solution of Afghanistan issue and thus prevent the further intensification of the situation in the region.

Taking the opportunity to assure you of my due respect,

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Wakil Sends Message to UN, Red Cross Committees

LD0404203391 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Abdol Wakil has sent separate messages to Geneva and London addressed to His Excellency Flex Ermacora, special spokesman for the UN Human Rights Commission; His Excellency Cornelio Sommaruga, chairman of International Red Cross Committee; His Excellency Jan Martenson, under secretary general in the affairs of human rights, and to His Excellency Secretary General of Amnesty International, on the tragic situation in Khowst. Here is the text:

Your Excellency, I want to inform you that as a result of direct aggression by Pakistan's militarists, the situation in Khowst has become very tense. At the present, Pakistani Armed Forces are actually in Khowst and are taking part in fighting against the Afghan Armed Forces alongside the extremist opposition. In fact, the Pakistani Army, using all modern arms and ammunition, is involved in a full-scale open war against the Republic of Afghanistan in that city.

I want to inform Your Excellency that despite the fact that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has expressed Afghanistan's goodwill in favor of normalizing and improving ties with Pakistan in an open address to that country's government, and proposed economic cooperation instead of military confrontation. Since then he has made various efforts to put this aspiration in practice.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's Government not only paid no attention to the Republic of Afghanistan's sincere intention but, in violation of the provisions of the Geneva accords, the UN Charter, and other accepted international norms and standards, has made the situation in the region even more dangerous.

Armed extremists, collaborating with Pakistan's militarists and with a specific purpose in mind, are continuing to kill innocent civilians in Khowst city including women, children, and the elderly. Such terrorist actions by the extremists is an open violation of the International Human Rights Declaration and those international conventions which are approved in this regard, and a flagrant breach of basic human rights and freedoms.

I request Your Excellency to use your moral influence and, taking into account those humanitarian duties that lie before you, take serious action and measures to end the aggression and prevent the continued killing of civilians and violation of human norms and basic freedom.

You should encourage the extremists opposition to treat the POW's and injured in Khowst fairly and to hand them over to the Afghan side. You should draw the attention of the Pakistani authorities and their partners to the observation of the basic principles of the human rights and keep the Republic of Afghanistan informed about the situation.

I extend my best wishes for Your Excellency's good health.

(Signed) Abdul Malik, Afghan Foreign Affairs Minister

Pakistani Envoy Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD0404172191 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The charge d'affaires at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon and the following strong protest of the Republic of Afghanistan government was handed to him by the director of the Foreign Ministry First Political Directorate:

Following [word indistinct] aggression by units of Pakistan's Army against Khowst, artillery forces, tanks, and other heavy weapons of Pakistan are being deployed in Khowst Province.

Reports indicate that the inhabitants, prisoners, and injured persons are not being treated in keeping with the principles of morality and humanity, against the norms of the Geneva Conventions on prisoners of war and injured persons. According to information received, the men and officers of the Pakistan Army are participating directly in torturing and mistreating the inhabitants, prisoners, and injured persons.

Units of the Pakistan Army [words indistinct] are plundering people's homes.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests these shameful actions by Pakistan and emphatically demands that Pakistan withdraw its forces from Khowst as soon as possible and treat the inhabitants, prisoners, and war injured in accordance with accepted international norms and principles of morality, and hand over the prisoners and injured persons to the Republic of Afghanistan as soon as possible.

Friction Reported Between Mujahidin Factions

BK0504092291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT
5 Apr 91

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 5 (AFP)—Friction has appeared among Afghan resistance groups following the capture of Khowst as the Hezb-i-Eslami party of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar appears isolated from the other groups, resistance sources said Friday.

Problems have arisen among the guerrillas, particularly between Jalaluddin Haqqani, whose troops played a leading role in the capture of Khowst Sunday [31 March] and Mr. Hikmatyar, who would like to be seen as the victor of Khowst, sources close to Mr. Haqqani said.

A long-time favourite of Pakistan among guerrilla leaders based here, Mr. Hikmatyar was often reported in

the Khowst region and the subsequent publicity irritated Mr. Haqqani, the real hero of the battle, the sources said.

Mr. Haqqani has since last year been associated with a new resistance faction, the Commanders Council, which groups military leaders who are more or less independent of their parties and the resistance government in Peshawar.

The council includes some of the best known commanders, including Ahmed Shah Masood, Amin Wardak and Ismail Khan.

The Hezb-i-Eslami were far short of being the main group in the fighting, but since the fall of Khowst an additional 2,000 of them have arrived from Pakistan, sparking tension between them and other groups in the area, they said.

Despite having only a few hundred troops present during the fighting, the Hezb-i-Eslami want a large share of the spoils, an Afghan intellectual said.

They have occupied some strategic positions in Khowst, including the radio station, and the arrival of fresh guerrillas has sparked fears of excesses which could tarnish the image of the mujahidin after a well coordinated battle with attention particularly focused on correct treatment of civilians and prisoners, witnesses said.

"The Hezb-i-Eslami understand that if they do anything they risk having everybody on their backs," explained a mujahidin commander.

Although Mr. Hikmatyar and Mr. Haqqani greeted each other with traditional Afghan courtesy, the real problems were not addressed, the commander said.

A Pakistani newspaper Friday, THE NEWS, reported the visit to Khowst by Senator Qasi Hussain Ahmed, the leader of a fundamentalist Pakistani party, who apparently prevailed on Mr. Hikmatyar to come to an understanding with the other leaders.

The distribution of the tonnes of captured weapons and the future civilian administration of the city is another source of friction with the Hezb-i-Eslami wanting to extend its influence and other groups blocking it.

In a meeting of commanders Thursday a joint force with 50 mujahidin from each party was set up to deal with security problems and roadblocks and checkpoints were organised to prevent looting.

In another meeting with commanders organised by local tribal leaders, talks were held on the future administration of the city.

The capture of the city also appears to have altered Pakistan's attitude towards the various mujahidin factions, experts said.

While the Hezb-i-Eslami were provided before the battle with more weapons than their presence at Khowst warranted, the other groups, particularly Mr. Haqqani's

faction, also found themselves receiving large amounts of armaments from Pakistan, various guerrilla sources said.

Although Islamabad continues to control the flow of U.S. weapons and aid to the mujahidin, it has denied reports of any involvement in the fighting as suggested by Kabul.

Informed sources in Islamabad said Pakistani officials would do everything possible to prevent the friction amongst the various factions from turning violent and spoiling the undeniable mujahidin success in Khowst.

Hikmatyar on Khowst Victory, Kabul Attack Plan

*BK0504090891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Text] Afghan leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has said that the victory in Khowst is a major step forward in the mujahidin's attempt to oust the Kabul regime from Afghanistan. Addressing a news conference at (Jehad-wal) inside Afghanistan, he said local commanders will now finalize their strategy for an attack on Kabul. He said a large number of the Kabul regime's senior military officers are establishing contacts with mujahidin, which reflects their lack of faith in the Najibullah regime.

Journalists Appeal to IOJ on Missing Reporters

*LD0404170191 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Message from the Executive Delegation of the Afghan Union of Journalists to the International Organization of Journalists—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Esteemed chairman and esteemed general secretary of the International Organization of Journalists [IOJ]: [passage omitted]

As a result of the thievish attack by Pakistani militarists joined by traitors to the homeland and warmongering elements, a large number of children, women, men, elders, and civilians were covered in blood on 1 April in Khowst city. In this bloody tragedy the fate of nine members of our journalists union and media workers who had been dispatched to this city to prepare reports about the situation, is unknown.

As you and the world public are aware, Pakistani militarists and Afghan extremist opposition [words indistinct] treated the prisoners of war savagely in Jalalabad, Konar, Konduz, Kandahar, and Zabol regions against all international norms and while asking for the safety of the civil population.

The Afghanistan Journalists Union, on behalf of all its members in Afghanistan, requests you and asks you sincerely to take immediate and urgent action to ensure the safety of the lives of Afghan journalists and their return [to Kabul] because they are being trapped in the fire of open and blatant aggression by the Pakistani militarists. Please use your international influence and

credibility to unite the international journalists organization with all members and national organizations. We want to emphasize that the life and death of our journalists are in question here. The humanitarian endeavors by you—dear professional friends—will be always appreciated in these difficult days [words indistinct]. We express profound appreciation in advance for your good offices and the members of the international journalist organization's humanitarian endeavors.

[Signed] With respect, the executive delegation of the Afghan Union of Journalists.

Bangladesh

Ershad, Other Jatiya Members Take Oath of Office

*BK0304133691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External
Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] Twenty-eight Jatiya Party members of parliament [MP's] led by their parliamentary group leader, former President Ershad, took oath of office at the parliament building in Dhaka Wednesday [3 April]. Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf administered the oath. MP's now under detention—H.M. Ershad, Moudud Ahmed, and Mahmudul Hasan—were brought to the Sangsad Bhaban [parliament house] under police protection. Three out of 31 Jatiya Party MP's did not turn up for oath-taking. They are: Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Anwar Hossain, and Sardar Amjad Hossain.

Not Allowed To Attend Parliament

*BK0404165691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT
4 Apr 91*

[Text] Dhaka, April 4 (AFP)—A court trying deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on weapons and corruption charges rejected Thursday his plea that he be allowed to attend Friday's opening session of parliament.

Special tribunal judge Mohammad Habibullah passed the order after Attorney-General Aminul Haque argued that existing rules prohibit a member of parliament [MP] who is on trial from attending sessions.

He noted that during Mr. Ershad's term as president, a sitting opposition MP detained on smuggling charges was not allowed to attend.

Mr. Haque said a detained MP facing specific charges would be limited to taking his or her oath.

Mr. Ershad, 61, who was forced to resign in December in the face of mass protests, was elected MP from his home constituency of Rangpur in the February 27 national election.

The former general took his oath Wednesday under tight security, along with 27 other MP's from his ousted Jatiya Party (JP).

Joining him at the ceremony were his former vice-president, Moudud Ahmed, and his former home minister, Mahmudul Hasan. Like Mr. Ershad, they were elected as MPs while in detention awaiting trial.

It was not immediately clear if Mr. Ahmed and Mr. Hasan would be allowed to attend Friday's opening session of the 330-member parliament, where Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), with 164 seats, has been promised the backing of 20 MPs from the rightist Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Three other JP MPs-elect—former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, ex-Communications Minister Anwar Hossain and former Food Minister Sardar Amjad Hossain—failed to turn up to take their oaths, possibly to avoid arrest, analysts said.

Mr. Ershad's lawyer, Sirajul Huq, did not seriously object to the attorney-general's assertion that his client should not be allowed to attend parliament, but asked that the trial be adjourned for a week.

Mr. Ershad looked on grimly as the judge adjourned the trial only until Sunday.

Party Supporting BNP To Sit With Opposition

*BK0404161091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] A delegation of the Jammata-i-Islami parliamentary party led by Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami met the acting president today. Maulana Nizami said his party would sit in the opposition in parliament. He said the Jammata-i-Islami had extended support to the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist party] for a limited purpose of ensuring a stable government which is very much needed in the present situation. This support, he said, will not change the character of the party as one of opposition parties in parliament.

BNP, Awami Disagree on Parliamentary Procedures

*BK0504094691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT
5 Apr 91*

[Text] Dhaka, April 5 (AFP)—The Bangladeshi parliament opened here Friday to a stormy maiden session, adjourning twice to resolve problems over the election of the new speaker and deputy speaker of the house.

When the 330-seat house met with outgoing Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury presiding, the leaders of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and of the opposition Awami League differed on election procedures as well as on consensus candidates.

Amid pandemonium, Mr. Chowdhury, who was speaker under deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, adjourned the session twice to allow the ruling and opposition parties to settle the issues outside the house.

The BNP, which secured 164 seats and has the support of 20 members from the right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami party,

proposed Abdur Rahman Biswas and Sheikh Razzak Ali as speaker and deputy speaker of the fifth parliament. Both the former ministers are BNP members.

But the opposition Awami League proposed two of its MPs as contenders for the posts, and after prolonged confusion the party leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed demanded that the issue be settled by a vote.

At one stage, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia asked Sheikh Hasina to withdraw her candidates.

Despite mediating roles played by leaders of smaller parliamentary groups to bring the two leaders to agreement, Mr. Chowdhury finally put the issue to a vote after the house reassembled for a second time shortly before noon.

Mr. Biswas and Mr. Ali were later elected speaker and deputy speaker respectively with 187 votes in favour and 97 votes against.

Earlier, some 25 members of the ousted ruling Jatiya Party (JP) walked out to demand that former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and other JP MPs who are being held pending trial be allowed to attend the session.

200 Ethnic Biharis Demand Repatriation to Pakistan

*BK0504004291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1914 GMT
4 Apr 91*

[Text] Dhaka, April 4 (AFP)—Some 200 Biharis, sheltered in several camps across Bangladesh, Thursday demanded early repatriation to their homeland and said a dialogue between Pakistan and Bangladesh could settle their fate.

"Prime Minister Khaleda Zia should start immediate negotiations with her Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif and arrange the start of our early repatriation to our homeland," said one leader of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) during a march on major streets here.

The demonstrators carried placards which read "Khaleda Zia arrange our early repatriation" and "Arrange meaningful dialogue with Pakistan."

This was the the SPGRC's first demonstration since Begum Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party government came to power last month.

The Biharis consider themselves Pakistanis, and many collaborated with the Pakistan Army during Bangladesh's nine-month war of independence from Islamabad in 1971. Most immigrated from India's eastern Bihar state in 1947 when the Indian sub-continent was partitioned on independence from Britain into India and west and east Pakistan. But they were left stranded after refusing to accept Bangladeshi citizenship after the 1971 war resulted in victory for East Pakistan.

Nargis Begum, a middle-aged Bihari woman, said she was marching because she expected that Begum Zia, as a woman, would realise how difficult life was in the refugee camps.

"I am Pakistani, even though I have never seen that country so far, but I would like to die there," she said.

Estimates of the Biharis scattered in more than 66 refugee camps in several Bangladesh districts range from around 260,000 to more than 300,000.

Germany To Give 15,000 Tonnes of Wheat

BK0304141891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Bangladesh is to receive 15,000 metric tons of wheat as grant worth about 100 million taka from Germany. An agreement to this effect was signed in Dhaka Wednesday [3 April]. ERD [External Resources Division] joint secretary Faizur Rahman Chowdhury and the German charge d'affaires, Mr. (Maldeker), signed the agreement. Of the quantity, 10,000 metric tons of wheat will be used under the Food for Work Program and the Vulnerable Group Development Program.

India

Consensus Reached on Accords With Pakistan

BK0404162091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Military delegations of India and Pakistan have reached a consensus on the technical aspects of two agreements. The agreements are on advance notification of military exercises and prevention of airspace violation by military aircraft. The consensus was reached during their five-day talks which ended in New Delhi today. These agreements will be further considered by foreign secretaries of the two countries who are meeting in New Delhi tomorrow.

The Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, arrived in New Delhi this evening for the fourth round of talks in pursuance of confidence-building measures proposed by India in May last year. Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr. Shaharyar Khan said the two sides will also discuss the whole gamut of outstanding issues. He expressed happiness over the consensus reached by the military delegations.

BJP Leaders Attend Pro-Ayodhya Temple Rally

BK0404132491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1219 GMT 4 Apr 91

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, April 4 (AFP)—Hundreds of thousands of Hindus demanded here Thursday the handover

of an ancient shrine also claimed by Muslims at a massive rally billed as India's greatest show of Hindu strength.

An estimated one million faithful loudly cheered each time speakers called for the construction of a temple for the Hindu god Rama at the disputed site in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.

"No force on this earth can stop Hindus from building a temple at the same site where a so-called mosque exists," thundered saffron-clad Sadhvi Ritambara, a firebrand speaker, drawing wild applause.

"We have collected here to show our strength," she said in a 20-minute address marked by anti-Muslim rhetoric. "The Rama temple will certainly come up one day."

More than a dozen Hindu politicians, bare-chested ascetics, and militant leaders urged Hindus to vote the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to power in elections to federal parliament next month.

The sprawling rally near parliament was a sea of saffron, with thousands of flags, banners, bandannas, caps and scarves in the colour which is said to symbolise Hindu religion.

Hundreds carried sticks, while some brandished tridents, home-made guns and swords.

The rally, which followed a two-day Hindu religious parliament here, was organised by the militant Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council), whose leader Ashok Singhal put the crowd strength at more than 2.5 million.

Police sources said some 600,000 attended against independent estimates of one million.

"I am convinced that this rally will influence India's coming history," said Atal Behari Vajpayee, a senior BJP leader and former foreign minister. "The temple at Ayodhya will certainly be built."

Hindus, India's overwhelming majority, regard the temple town of Ayodhya as the birthplace of Lord Rama, and allege that a mosque there was built by Moghul Emperor Babar in the 16th century after demolishing a Rama temple.

Muslims deny this, and refuse to give up their claims over the crumbling mosque.

The temple-mosque row had led to hundreds of deaths in Hindu-Muslim clashes across India in recent years. Security forces opened fired at Hindu crowds which tried to storm the mosque in October and November 1990, killing at least 24 people.

The entire gathering cheered wildly, throwing their clothes and sticks high up in the air, when Mr. Singhal announced the collapse Thursday of the Uttar Pradesh state administration which ordered police to open fire.

Mr. Singhal, a former engineer, later said it was the biggest Hindu public meeting in India.

Several speakers Thursday displayed contempt for India's constitutionally guaranteed secularism, and accused successive Indian governments of appeasing Muslims and using them as vote banks.

India's more than 100 million Muslims form its largest religious minority.

"Rajiv Gandhi did not weep when Hindus were shot dead in Ayodhya. But he shed tears when Muslims in Iraq were killed," said a speaker, referring to the country's sixth prime minister who was voted out in November 1989.

And in an obvious reference to Indian Muslims, he added: "You cried for Saddam Husayn. Saddam is gone. And if you continue to be aggressive to Hindus, you too will go like him."

Others showered abuse on Mr. Gandhi, and his successors Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Chandra Shekhar for their refusal to permit the VHP to build a Rama temple at Ayodhya.

Mr. V.P. Singh's 11-month-old national front government collapsed in November 1990 after the BJP withdrew its crucial legislative backing to protest the arrest of its leader Lal Krishna Advani over the Ayodhya dispute.

The BJP, whose flags fluttered all over the rally site, has since come out openly as a Hindu-revivalist party, and promised that it will allow the construction of the Rama temple if it is voted to power.

[Delhi Domestic Service in English at 1230 GMT on 4 April carries the following report: "A rally was held in New Delhi today by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP, World Hindu Council] in support of its demand for the construction of a temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya. Addressing the rally, several BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders, including Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Mr. L.K. Advani, and Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee; alleged that the governments in the past have not been following real secularism and have been appeasing the minorities. The VHP leaders claimed that the construction of the temple will promote unity and nationalism.

["Commenting on the withdrawal of support by the Congress-I to the Mulayam Singh Yadav government in Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Advani said it is political opportunism. He said if Article 370 of the Constitution had been abolished, there would have been no problem in Kashmir. VHP leaders who addressed the rally included Mr. Vishnu Hari Dalmia and Mr. Ashoke Singhal."]

Congress-I To Continue Supporting Gujarat Chief

BK0504150291 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The Congress-I is to continue its support to the Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, who has floated a new regional party—the Janata Dal-Gujarat. It will also have alliance with the new party for the Lok Sabha polls. Announcing this at a news conference in New Delhi today, the Congress-I general secretary, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, said the support is being extended on Mr. Patel's request.

Gujarat Janata Dal-S Members Quit

BK0504093491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] In Gujarat, 65 of the 67 Janata Dal-S MLA's [members of legislative assembly] have formally declared their intention to join the newly formed Janata Dal-Gujarat headed by Mr. Chimanbhai Patel. The speaker of the state assembly, Mr. Himmatlal Mulani, told our Ahmedabad correspondent that he has received letters from the 65 MLA's indicating their new party affiliation.

Kerala Governor Dissolves State Assembly

BK0504091391 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The Kerala governor, Mr. Rachchaiah, has dissolved the state assembly. A notification in this regard was issued in Trivandrum today. This followed the recommendation of the state cabinet to dissolve the house and hold assembly elections along with the Lok Sabha poll. Earlier, the Kerala chief minister, Mr. Nayanar, said his ministry can continue as a caretaker government even after the assembly is dissolved. Mr. Nayanar told newsmen in trivandrum today that there is nothing wrong in this as his government enjoyed majority in the house. The chief minister said he had recommended dissolution of the assembly and simultaneous poll along with the Lok Sabha elections to avoid unnecessary expenditure.

The union cabinet at its meeting this morning has taken a decision on the Haryana governor's recommendation to impose central rule in the state. The cabinet advice on the issue has been sent to the president, Mr. Venkataraman.

Publishing Ban on 'Objectionable' Items in Kashmir

BK0504035091 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has prohibited with immediate effect the publication of objectionable, provocative, or inflammatory items by newspapers in the state. A notification to this effect was issued in Jammu yesterday. The notification empowers the police

to seize copies of newspapers carrying such reports. The printing presses also come under the purview of the notification.

45 'Militants' Surrender To Security Forces

BK0404162291 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 45 militants surrendered to the security forces in Baramulla and Kupwara districts today. An official spokesman said that 11 of them belonged to the Hizbul Mujahidin, 11 to JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front], and eight to Muslim Janbaz Force [as heard].

Seven 'Militants' Among 14 Killed in Punjab

BK0404150491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] In Punjab, seven militants are among 14 persons killed in separate incidents since last night. In Amritsar District, half-meter portion of Jullundur-Amritsar railway track was blown up in a powerful bomb blast in between Jandiala and Manavla railway stations.

Election Chief on National, West Bengal Poll

BK0304165491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Assembly elections in West Bengal are to be held simultaneously along with the Lok Sabha poll in May. This was announced by the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, at a news conference in New Delhi this evening. He said during his visit to Calcutta yesterday he held discussions with the West Bengal governor and the chief minister on the poll arrangements. Mr. Seshan said representatives of the Congress-I, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and the Socialist Unity Center of India met him and expressed apprehensions of rigging. He has assured them that the commission will take all necessary steps for a fair poll in the state.

Mr. Seshan also disclosed that the commission has taken exception to the mass transfer of officials connected with the poll duty ordered in some states. He said in some cases it has directed the state governments to restore the status quo. While Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been asked to review the transfers and replace the steps [as heard], Rajasthan has been directed to stay the transfers made on the eve of the ban which came into effect on the 25th of last month. The commission conveyed its unhappiness to Haryana and Himachal Pradesh over the transfers and pointed out that these should be kept in abeyance till the elections are over. About the transfers made in Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Delhi, he said these are not of a significant concern to the commission. The commission is awaiting more information from Karnataka on the issue.

The Election Commission chief also said that the union government has named 160 senior officials for being

appointed as central observers. Names of 140 more officials are to be made known in a couple of days. He will have a meeting with these observers on the 10th of this month. Mr. Seshan said that unlike in the past, the central observers will visit all the constituencies during April and May much before the polling date. They will meet representatives of political parties and officials on election duties to ensure a fair and free poll. The observers will be available in their constituencies four days before the poll begins.

Iran

Khamene'i Urges Iraqis To Overthrow Saddam

NC0504092791 Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT
5 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 5 (AFP)—Iran's spiritual guide, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, on Friday called on the Iraqi people to overthrow their government.

In an address during Moslem weekly prayers at Tehran University, he urged the people of Iraq to "resist and finish with the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad".

Iraqi President "Saddam Husayn and his circle have no other solution than to bow to the will of the people", he said, referring to the month-long revolt against the government.

Iraq Reportedly Abducts Second Grand Ayatollah

LD0404193391 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—The Iraqi regime has also abducted Grand Ayatollah Abul-Ala Sabzewari and two of his sons from the holy city of al-Najaf, according to Iraqi opposition sources here today.

The supreme assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said Grand Ayatollah Sabzewari and his sons were forcibly taken from their home to an unknown place two days after senior-most alim, Grand Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i, was abducted and forced to appear on Baghdad television on March 20.

"There is no information on the whereabouts or the physical conditions of his eminence Grand Ayatollah Sabzewari and his sons," added the SAIRI statement.

It said the insult to venerated Islamic scholars and the desecration of Holy sites in Karbala and al-Najaf was "proof enough of the deep-rooted enmity of Saddam Husayn's godless regime towards Islam and its lofty values."

UN Envoy Says Refugees Threaten Stability*LD0504115791 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT
5 Apr 91*

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 5, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy here Dr. Kamal Kharrazi on Thursday warned that the influx of Iraqi refugees "in addition to its obvious economic and social problems" has caused tension and chaos at the Iranian borders. In a letter addressed to the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, Kharrazi also warned that the prolongation of the situation, with its implications for Iraq's neighbors, "will have consequences that in fact threaten regional peace and security."

"The magnitude of the suffering of Iraqi refugees, its international character and its consequences for regional peace and security make a concerted international reaction by the Security Council of the United Nations a political and humanitarian imperative," he further said in his letter.

The letter said: "...I have the honor to bring to your attention the desperate situation of Iraqi civilians who are crossing all along the border into the Islamic Republic of Iran. Events in Iraq and the method by which Iraqi military has dealt with the uprising of the Iraqi population has led to uprooting and driving of hundreds of thousands of them towards the neighboring countries. It is estimated that about 500,000 Iraqi civilians will try to cross the borders into Iran within a very short period of time in the next few days.

"Up until noon today (Thursday), more than 110,000 Iraqi civilians have already crossed the border into Iran along the border including more than 45,000 in the north. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi people and their vehicles, forming a line of more than 60 kms, are crossing into Iran at the only paved road at Hajj 'Umran border post. Thousands of other Iraqi people including elderly and children, many on bare foot in mountainous areas in the north and under heart-breaking circumstances are trying to escape the military attacks and find refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The influx of refugees is also continuing in the south albeit at a lower pace.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran in line with its long standing policy and in spite of the hardships it is facing, has kept its borders open to Iraqi people escaping repression so as to decrease the pressure on them..."

IRNA Reports Plight of Iraqi Refugees**Border Official Cited***LD0304135291 Tehran IRNA in English 1144 GMT
3 Apr 91*

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azerbaijan Prov., April 3, IRNA—A provincial official said here today that as a result of the steadily increasing number of inflow of groups of Iraqi

refugees in Iran, the road connecting Iraq's Diyala to Hajj Omran of Iran is now blocked due to heavily congested traffic.

He said "hundreds of thousands" of Iraqis and Iraqi families are seeking asylum with Iran, among them men, women and small children. He added that a large percentage of them are suffering from starvation.

Some of them say Monday night several Iraqi children died just behind the Iranian borders due to starvation, and that a few others who were roaming about to gather firewood and kindling for making a fire to warm by, tripped on mines and were killed.

The official said on Tuesday a truckful of provisions were sent to the border outpost for feeding the arriving refugees which, he said, was immediately devoured by hungry refugees. He said the provisions needed by the arriving refugees should be immediately sent to the border outpost.

The official added that a large number of Iraqis from Karkuk and Irbil are arriving in Iran in summertime attire and unprepared for the local weather conditions in Iran. He noted that it is feared that many of them will die unless relief operations are speeded up.

He commented that the Iranian Red Crescent society should operate more efficiently with respect to the condition of the refugees and urgency of the circumstances.

'One Million' at Border*LD0404121491 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT
4 Apr 91*

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 4, IRNA—Some one million Iraqis from the Kurdish populated cities of Sulaymaniya, Kirkuk and the nearby villages have flocked to the Iranian wester border town of Nowsud in the past 48 hours hoping to be allowed to enter the Islamic Republic.

The refugees fearing reprisal of the Ba'athist regime for their participation in the recent popular uprising in northern Iraq, are reportedly under miserable conditions in the cold mountainous region with rain pouring.

Many of those who have fled the onslaught, among them many children and infants, have starved to death or their lives are in serious danger because of lack of food and shelter.

According to informed border sources Iran may permit all these refugees enter the country.

Meanwhile, reports from Marivan, Kordestan Province, indicate that over 20,000 Iraqi refugees crossed the Savoji Border point, near Marivan, and entered Iran overnight Thursday.

Another batch of 3,500 Iraqis have arrived in Iran through Hajj Umran border point, near Piranshah in Kordestan province, since Wednesday afternoon.

Thousands are arriving in Iran from Iraq by cars and on foot, despite adverse weather and geographical conditions. Many of them are reportedly seriously ill or injured. They are given food and treatment by Iranian relief workers immediately upon arrival.

The flood of the refugees arriving in Iran continues in all western border points and thousands of cars are reportedly queuing on the other side of Iran-Iraq border.

3,000 Cross Border at Baneh

LD0404123391 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdistan Prov., April 4, IRNA—3,000 more Iraqi refugees escaping the atrocities of the Ba'thist regime crossed into Iran through Baneh border areas in this western province during the past 24 hours.

The new batch of Iraqi refugees include Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds and Turks. A number of the refugees were transferred to the nearby city of Saez and the rest were lodged in Abbasabad village in Baneh.

The Iraqi refugees are escaping certain death and hunger which has been hanging over the Iraqi cities since the outbreak of the Persian Gulf War and the subsequent popular uprising which is harshly being quelled by the forces loyal to the Ba'thist regime.

40,000 Enter West Azerbaijan

LD0404185491 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Orumiyeh (W. Azarbaijan), April 4, IRNA—The number of Iraqi Kurds pouring into Iran to escape the general slaughter in their homeland, swelled to 40,000 in this province today, with officials calling for urgent foodstuff-medical aid in view of well over a million others reportedly on their way towards the Iranian borders.

According to Governor-General Ali S'adat some 20,000 refugees were counted by 14:00 hours local time (10:30 hours GMT) Thursday, as hundreds of vehicles carrying new refugees crossed over from Iraq through the Piranshahr and Sardasht borders.

"Local officials were on hand to look after the immediate needs of the half-starved and sometimes wounded refugees, who have been lodged in several camps", he said.

Piranshahr Governor Ahmad Ziaee said his town was flooded by Iraqi refugees and was in need of urgent international aid to cope with the large exodus.

"Most of the refugees who had walked towards Iran braving heavy rainfall are sick and are in urgent need of foodstuff and medicines," he said.

Quoting reports from across the border, Ziaee said some 1.5 million more Iraqi Kurds are rushing towards Iran in

thousands or tens of thousands or whatever means of conveyance they could manage, and even on foot.

The snows in the mountainous areas of Haj Omran, inside Iraq, has worsened the plight of the refugees, who are being chased by Iraqi helicopter gunships and tanks.

Majles Deputy Questions Release of UK's Cooper

LD0404151291 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—Majles deputy from the town of Varamin, Mohammad Qomi, today called on the judiciary to elaborate on the crimes committed by the British spy Roger Cooper.

He also questioned which legal and religious criteria determined Cooper's sentence, and the objective behind his release on the threshold of 'International Qods day' (April 12).

"Praises showered by the old colonialists should not make us elated. On the contrary such praises should make us deliberate seriously on our principles," said the deputy.

Qomi continued: "We should learn from our late Imam Khomeyni that whenever the enemies of Islam praise us, there is certainly some flaws in our action."

Meanwhile, the Persian daily KAYHAN Wednesday quoted a judiciary official as saying that Cooper's release had no relation whatsoever with the release of Iranian student Mehrdad Kowkabi by the British Government.

"Cooper's sentence simply terminated and he was set free," Hoseyn Farrahi, in charge of the office of the head of the judiciary told KAYHAN.

He said Cooper's sentence was about five years, and the verdict was not announced at that because of the country's 'expediencies'. Farrahi, however, declined to answer as to which court had tried and sentenced the British spy, and when.

Swiss Minister Urges UN To Stop Iraqi 'Massacre'

LD0404135891 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT
4 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—Visiting Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber on Thursday called on the United Nations to take measures to stop the massacre of the Iraqi people by the Baghdad regime.

"The coalition which launched a war on Iraq should now take practical steps in this regard and exert political pressure on that regime," Felber told reporters at Tehran Airport shortly before flying back home at the end of his 3-day official visit.

Felber terming Iran as the largest and most populous country of the region noted any solution for the region

which excluded the Islamic Republic was out of question. He said during his talk with Iranian officials the two sides reached agreements on mutual cooperation and that his visit helped strengthen bilateral relations.

The Swiss foreign minister was seen off by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati at Mehrabad International Airport. (endal) 041233 horler/mc

Ties With Netherlands Raised to Ambassador Level

*LD0504115191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Apr 91*

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the Islamic republic of Iran and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have decided to raise their diplomatic relations to the embassy level.

Commentary Examines Relations With EC

*LD0404165291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1054 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day dear listeners. Yesterday, the foreign ministers of Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, representing the European Community, met and conferred with Mr. Velayati, foreign minister, and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president. [passage omitted]

The visit by this delegation to Tehran is the first trip of its kind and it is expected to prepare the grounds for elevating relations between Iran and the EC. In the course of the past few years Iran's bilateral relations with the EC have been continuously improving and in this connection, in addition to the expansion of economic and trade relations, some understandings have also been reached in the area of politics. Overall, these developments have been such that it is expected that in the near future an EC office will be opened in Tehran. Also, with regard to strengthening bilateral economic relations, one of the high ranking economic officials of the EC will soon be coming to Iran to talk about the details of cooperation with the economic officials of our country.

Apart from attending to the question of bilateral relations between Iran and the EC, the meetings between the European foreign ministers and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran provided a good opportunity for reviewing the situation in Iraq and existing circumstances in the region. [passage omitted] The Iraqi people's confrontation against the Ba'thist government is continuing in the southern and northern cities of Iraq in spite of the severity of the suppression of the popular forces. This is while no formal cease-fire has yet been established between the Iraqi armed forces and the multinational forces, and parts of Iraqi territory are still under the occupation of the multinational forces.

In this connection the Islamic Republic, while criticizing the government in Baghdad and calling for the acceptance of people's demands, has repeatedly emphasized

that the territorial integrity of Iraq should be safeguarded and had also declared that there should be no interference in the internal affairs of that country. This stance which conforms to the principle of the rights of nations to determine their own destinies, in addition to fulfilling the rights of the people of Iraq, will also prepare the grounds for the establishment of stability and tranquility in the region. Iran's stances vis-a-vis internal developments in Iraq has a lot in common with the stance of the EC. In this connection the Luxembourg foreign minister, who is the present head of the EC, in his meeting with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president, said: The view of the EC is that the absence of democracy in Iraq has contributed to the continuation of dictatorship in that country. While emphasizing the territorial integrity of Iraq we approve the realization of the demands of the popular revolt in Iraq and express our moral support for this revolt.

With regards to the security structure of the region too, Iran has constantly emphasized that the security of the region is the responsibility of the countries of the region and that big powers should not interfere. Iran calls for the withdrawal of Western forces from the region and thinks that the restoration of tranquillity and stability in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf is possible through the cooperation and participation of regional countries. In this connection certain common attitudes are evident between Iran and Europe. The Luxembourg foreign minister in a meeting with the foreign minister of our country, while expressing the EC's praise for Iran's neutral stance during the length of the Persian Gulf war and stressing the important and vital role of Iran in relation to the security of the region, said: The problems of the region should not be settled by any plan imposed from outside, but by one emanating from within the region. He added: Thus, we think Iran's role in establishing security in the region will be a determining role and no solution is logical without Iran's effective role.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Work of Security Forces

*LD0404201491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Mr. Nuri, the interior minister and acting commander in chief of the security forces, accompanied by Brigadier Mohammad Sohrabi, the commander of the security forces; Brigadier Reza Seyfollahi, commander of the [Ministry of] Information intelligence department; and Hojati ol-Eslam Rahmani, head of the political-ideological department of the security forces, were received by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president. In that meeting, Mr. Nuri gave a report concerning the progress in the merger of security forces and the structure of the said force. He elaborated on the specific structure of the security forces and presented a copy of the proposals for the organization and structure of that force, which has been approved by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the commander in chief.

Next, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, welcomed the new security formation and thanked the continuing efforts of Mr. Nuri for the realization of the proposals for the merger of the security forces. He emphasized the necessity of strengthening that new formation and referred to the choice of officials of the security forces in all spheres as very good.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, also said: The said force must continue to decisively carry out its duties at all levels. The president stressed: Security forces have the greatest contact with the people. Even those who carry out their duties on the borders are in contact with the people. It is essential that they carry out their duties courteously and firmly so that everyone may know that this force works within the law. The people's trust is the best investment for the work of the security forces. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the art of security is in infiltration, covert surveillance, protection of property, and the protection of the people's honor. He stressed: The struggle against vices and smuggling must be coupled with advice and guidance so that the people realize certain actions are not in their interest. He added: Homes must be safe. Security missions, such as the fight against narcotics, must continue seriously without wasting time.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for safeguarding the soundness of the force and its personnel and added: The intelligence department of the [Ministry of] Information must carry out its duties with complete control. The ideological and political soundness of this force is also very important. This is a duty of the political-ideological department.

New Regional Commanders Appointed

LD0404094391 Tehran IRIB Television Network
in Persian 1700 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] On the recommendation of Brigadier Sohrabi, commander of the security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and with the approval of Interior Minister Nuri, the following have been appointed as security commanders of the various Iranian regions:

Second Brigadier Mohammad 'Ali Aslanzadeh, commander of West Azarbayjan security zone;

Second Brigadier Jamshid Tahmasbi, commanders of Fars security zone;

Second Brigadier Ahmad Risvanchiyan, commander of Khorasan security zone;

Second Brigadier Siyamak Allahyari, commander of Mazandaran security zone;

Second Brigadier Ehtesham Rahimi-Dorabadi, commander of Hormozgan security zone;

Second Brigadier Reza Aliyari, commander of Tehran security zone;

Second Brigadier Mohammad Ja'far Qajarzadeh, commander of Arak security zone;

Second Brigadier 'Ali Imanparvar, commander of East Azarbayjan security zone;

Second Brigadier Mohammad Sane'i, commander of Kordestan security zone;

Second Brigadier 'Ali Asghar Haddadi, commander of Khuzestan security zone;

Second Brigadier Nasergholi Reza'inia, commander of Kerman security zone;

Sardar Brigadier of the Guards [Sardar-e Sartip-e Pasdar] Bahram Nowruzi, commander of Ilam security zone;

Sardar Brigadier of the Guards Morteza Najafi-'Elmi, commander of Esfahan security zone;

'Ali Shafi'i, commander of Yazd security zone;

Sardar Second Brigadier of the Guards 'Ali Mohammad Khamse'i, commander of Gilan security zone;

Sardar Second Brigadier of the Guards Vajollah Aqataghi, commander of Sistan va Baluchestan security zone;

Sardar Second Brigadier of the Guards Reza Abolfathi, commander of the Semnan security zone;

Sardar Second Brigadier of the Guards Abdollah Oqba'i, commander of Greater Tehran security zone;

Colonel Reza 'Atr, commander of Kuhluyeh va Boyer Ahmad security zone;

Colonel Mohammad Hassan Ahmadi, commander of Lorestan security zone;

Colonel Mohammad 'Esma'il Keshvadi, commander of Hamadan security zone;

Colonel Hoseyn Mahmudi-Neyland, commander of Bushehr security zone;

Colonel 'Ali Aryafar, commander of Bakhtaran security zone;

Colonel 'Aligholi Fudazi, commander of Chaharmahal va Bakhtiari security zone;

Colonel of the Guards 'Esma'il Fathalipur, commander of Zanjan security zone.

Resolution 687 Sets Conditions for Iraqi Surrender

LD0404141191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1104 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Station political commentary]

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council has adopted its latest resolution concerning the Persian Gulf crisis. [passage omitted] With a brief glance at this six point resolution, it can be said that this latest UN resolution has really set down conditions for Iraq's full surrender and the legalization of this in such a way that the Iraqi Government will have no choice but to accept this resolution as an international demand, whereby its violation would be tantamount to confronting the will of the international community.

This very point could of course act as a way out for Iraq in the sense that it could satisfy itself with the idea that it is conforming to conditions set down by the United Nations and not by those of certain governments which led and equipped the allied forces. [passage omitted] Thus, resolution 687 consists of border, military, and economic concerns, and in the opinion of analysts—even

though the resolution imposes conditions on Iraq for its complete surrender—the Iraqi Government is however not in a position to oppose this. [passage omitted]

Another point attracting the attention of observers is that the general outline of security measures in the region has been drawn up in the section concerning military issues in resolution 687—that is, the destruction of chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons, and missiles with a range of over 150 kilometers. This applies not only to Iraq but to other countries in the region.

The new Security Council resolution may be the last resolution concerning the current Persian Gulf crisis, but it could be a prelude to addressing other problems of the Middle East region.

Dailies Criticize U.S. 'Support' for Saddam

LD0304125591 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies Wednesday criticized the U.S. Administration support for the Iraqi regime and its silence towards massacre of the revolting Muslims in the country.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial said that the attitude stemmed from the fact that the U.S. was fearful of the consequences of the popular uprising.

The daily asked how long and to what extent would the U.S. continue this policy and whether it would support the Baghdad regime once it accomplishes its task of suppressing the Iraqi people.

If the Baghdad regime suppresses the popular uprising, the U.S. will achieve one of its major goals. However, this seems unlikely because of the deeply rooted wrath the Iraqi people towards the U.S. and the Baghdad regime. Even if the goal is materialized, it will be a short-lived one, it said.

The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote that the U.S. policy is to help Saddam indirectly, to suppress the uprising and then force Saddam to quit through various political, economic and international pressures.

It added that as long as Saddam is in power the situation in Kuwait and consequently in the entire Arab Peninsula will be instable.

"What should be stressed here, however, is that the savage massacre of the innocent people of Iraq by the military which is taking place before the eyes of the American troops, proves to the world, particularly to the regional nations that it makes a lot of difference for the United States between the rights of the Iraqi citizens and the Zionists."

"The U.S. showed that the American human rights is the most hated term in international laws order," it said

adding "because if until yesterday, the U.S. was fighting Saddam Husayn and the Ba'th Party under the cover of defending human rights, it has now opened the way for the massacre of the innocent people of Iraq and in violation of the cease-fire regulations, has allowed the use of military planes, helicopters as well as surface-to-surface missiles in the suppression of the people's uprising."

Daily Advises Iraq To Obey 'Will of the People'

NC0504104691 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Sympathizing With the Oppressed Is Legitimate Policy"]

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) in its Saturday session reviewed the latest developments inside Iraq and warned the Iraqi leadership against violation of the holy sites at al-Najaf and Karbala'.

The SNSC denied circulating provocative rumors on Iran's alleged involvement in the ongoing unrest inside Iraq. It called on the Iraqi Government to submit to the will of its people to avert more bloodshed in the country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy, since its establishment in 1979, has been based on noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. But, without a doubt, it always has expressed concern over the rights of oppressed nations throughout the world, which it is intent on continuing.

To prove Iran's correct policy it would suffice to mention that despite the long Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, which left immense losses both in terms of life and material damage, and in view of the fact that Kuwait was one of Iraq's main financial backers, the Iranian Government was one of the first countries to denounce and condemn the Iraqi occupation of the emirate last August. Moreover, it launched intense diplomatic attempts to help Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, and was considered one of the most active countries in the effort to end the occupation of the tiny emirate.

In the wake of the deployment of foreign troops in the region and the subsequent bombardment of civilian and residential areas in Iraq by the U.S.-led allied forces, Islamic Iran, on the basis of its Islamic and humanitarian duty, opposed the alien presence and deplored the massacre of the Iraqi people, which is considered in direct contravention of all international rules and regulations.

As in the past, Islamic Iran is now warning the Iraqi rulers not to commit further final blunders, but to submit to the will of the people. To take its fate into its own hands is the principal right of any nation, and no government has the right to use weapons to keep people from achieving what is their basic legitimate right. It is the Iraqi people who are being victimized by the Ba'thist rulers intent to maintain their illegitimate rule over the country.

It must be emphasized that merely expressing sympathy with the Iraqi people and extending advice to the Iraqi Government is not and cannot be considered interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. It is also perhaps wise to point out, as was proved in the case of the Iranian people, that any nation can, relying on its faith, achieve its rights without any external help.

Paper Says Upheaval in Iraq 'Crucial' Test

NC0404153591 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 18 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Crucial Test for Iraqi People"]

[Text] As the guns of war fell silent, a massive uprising of the Iraqi people simultaneously began in southern Iraq, the heartland of the country's Shiite Muslims. Long resentful of the iron-fisted domination of Saddam Husayn, the revolt began on March 1, in the southern port of al-Basrah, Iraq's second largest city. To date the unrest has spread to the Kurdish areas of northern Iraq as well as some areas in the capital, Baghdad.

As expected, Saddam Husayn is doing what he's always done to survive—unleashing ruthless terror on a large scale to crush the opposition. Before the crackdown, Baghdad ordered all foreign journalists out, so that there would be no witnesses. Iraqi refugees arriving in Iran in the past several days talk about napalm bomb attacks of forces loyal to Saddam on al-Basrah and its surrounding areas. And although the situation in the strife-torn regions is confused, shelling of the rebellious towns and cities are believed to be continuing.

The upheaval in Iraq is a crucial test for the opposition. They include the autonomy-seeking Kurds, Shiite and Sunni Muslims, and communists and liberals. The factor which unites them is their hatred for Saddam. Jalal Talabani, guerrilla leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, insists that what is happening is a nationalist movement involving everyone in Iraq—Shi'ites, Kurds, Sunnis, and minority groups.

The rebellion marks the most serious internal challenge to Saddam Husayn since he took power in 1979. And if the present trend of events continues, Mideast and Arab experts contend that the downfall of the Baghdad regime is a very real possibility. The stakes in overthrowing Saddam have become much higher than before. Having been long muzzled, the Iraqi nation was further humiliated by the Iraqi defeat at the hands of the U.S.-led coalition. Iraq is a well-organized police state and its government is well known for brutal and repressive measures.

By invading Kuwait, Iraq has alienated its former supporters and turned friends into foes. None of the Iraqi neighbors nor most of the other Arab states would accept the idea of being threatened by Baghdad. The Kuwaiti invasion also led to deterioration of inter-Arab relations, creating a number of rifts among them. But with Saddam gone, the Iraqi nation could look forward to once again

being a part of the Arab community, re-establish its role in the security of the Persian Gulf and eventually mend fences with neighboring Syria.

On Saturday, Saddam Husayn, in a nationwide broadcast promised democratic reforms to his people, albeit, to save his beleaguered regime. Prior to his speech, the government-controlled media had threatened to punish those responsible for the uprising. Meanwhile, the unrest spreads like fire, with army deserters joining the anti-Saddam revolt. The Kurds in the north have also issued statements about the liberation of their mountainous province which houses Iraq's main oil center.

Real power depends on people. The right of self-determination is the collective right of every nation. The removal of Saddam Husayn could potentially bring to the fore a new and brighter era for the Iraqi nation and create a more stable order in the region. His removal and a smooth transition of power are, however, by no means assured.

Editorial Views Iraqi War Reparations

NC0404203191 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 25 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Bad Debts"]

[Excerpts] Like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the big western powers are directly responsible for turning Iraqi President Saddam Husayn into the dictator he is today. This is more a statement of fact than abuse and many quarters in the western-Arab coalition against Baghdad's Kuwaiti offensive admit that Ba'th policy throughout the 1980s received their tacit approval. [passage omitted]

Time and again Iraqi opposition leaders based in different parts of the world had cautioned those extending loans and credits to Baghdad to discontinue their practice. Spokesmen for the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), the Al-Da'wa Party, and several Kurdish organizations had stressed that if the Iraqi opposition came to power, it will be largely disinterested in President Saddam's war debts. [sentence as published] Gatherings in Tehran, Damascus, Beirut and several European capitals took every possible opportunity to urge global attention to the fact that Arab and Western money was being deployed to kill Iraqi men, women and children.

Propaganda circles are now making it known that international legal experts are working on ways to make Iraq repay the enormous damages stemming from its August invasion of Kuwait. Regardless of what the U.S., France, Britain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait may publicize about the recent conflict and its reparations, the crux of the matter is that the opposite is true. Post-Saddam Iraq does not owe anything to the colonial-reactionary camp. What befell the tens of opposition groups over the past 11 years has everything to do with the West's anti-Islamic policies. So it is the arrogant western bloc and

subservient Arab regimes who should compensate for their errors and not vice versa. [passage omitted]

It is interesting that the Kuwaiti regime has estimated its own damages from the occupation at \$100 b [billion] and that the Bush administration is working on a draft resolution for the United Nations suggesting war compensation be extracted from the devastated countries petroleum exports. No logic will accept that the Muslim people of Iraq will pay for Ba'th Party crimes committed and made possible solely through big power support.

It would be very unrealistic to expect reparations from a nation that has its own major claims against Saddam's former allies in and outside the region. The former friends and present adversaries are duly obliged to correct the wrong they did to a nation for a decade. At best they should consider as bad debts the multi-billion-dollar loans to Saddam Husayn and the so-called damages they suffered in the process of liberating Kuwait.

International Stand on Iraqi Uprising Denounced

NC0404153391 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 26 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Deadly Silence"]

[Excerpts] The uprising of the Muslim people of Iraq against their despotic and expansionist leaders is gathering momentum with the passage of each day. The Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries only require some organization to score great victories in the coming days. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi Ba'th Party leaders who are currently in a quagmire as a result of their miscalculations and wrong policies and expecting fresh blows from the rising people each moment, are resorting to every measure to continue their oppressive rule. Among these measures is giving more and more concessions to the U.S.-led allied forces and bowing to any new demand by them to the extent that the U.S. and allied are giving new proposals to the U.N. Security Council each day in order to ask for more concessions from their defeated enemy. The Ba'thist regime is likely to continue giving in to this blackmail until such time that it lures the allied forces to help it suppress the people's uprising as a guarantee for safeguarding the privileges they have acquired.

Right now traces of an implicit U.S. consent over the Iraqi events, particularly the use of chemical weapons against the people, can be seen. The U.S. which had previously announced it would not allow the use of military planes and helicopters by Iraq, suddenly changed its position upon witnessing the desperation of the Baghdad regime in confronting the people. Commander of the U.S. forces stationed in the region General Norman Schwarzkopf told newsmen in Riyadh Saturday

that American pilots patrolling over Iraq have been instructed not to shoot down helicopters unless they approach allied forces.

The Muslim people of Iraq are leaving behind the hard days of struggle against the despotic regime in Baghdad under conditions that each day a new plot is hatched against their uprising. The U.S. seems to be trying to bring to power a regime in Iraq which would protect the concessions it has gained from the humiliated Ba'thist regime.

On the other hand, the silence of the international community towards the massacre of the Iraqi people by unconventional arms, including chemical and biological weapons, is undoubtedly a "black stain" in the history for the so-called advocates of international peace and security. Their indifference shows that the so-called humanitarian and peace-loving organizations whose deafening human rights slogans have been turned into a means for suppression of liberation movements as well as independent world systems, are acting in line with the policy of the superpowers and refrain even from uttering mere words when the interests of the hegemonist powers are at stake.

How can the supporters of human rights justify their deadly silence on the carnage of Iraq's innocent people? What responsibility does the Security Council, which had issued nine resolutions in six months apparently in support of Kuwait including one allowing the use of force against Iraqi rulers, feel towards the Iraqi people? Haven't the U.S. and other permanent members of the Security Council used international organizations as a tool in order to safeguard their illegitimate interests and also legitimize their illegal acts? Didn't the U.S. and Britain withdraw from UNESCO because they could not even tolerate to see the organization taking independent steps. Therefore the U.S. seems to be awaiting the final results of the clashes between the people and the army in Iraq in a bid to draw up proper plans to safeguard its interests. The Muslim people in Iraq should be on alert so that behind-the-scene agreements would not put their country in a course other than the one they wish themselves.

Iraq's Accusations of Interference Criticized

NC0404211691 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
27 Mar 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Iraq's Spiteful Allegations"]

[Text] The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman refuted allegations regarding Iranian forces crossing over the cease-fire line between Iran and Iraq. The spokesman said: The Iraqi government's motive in making such allegations is to divert public attention from the difficulties stemming from the popular movement inside Iraq. He added: Iran is not interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and similar allegations on the violation of the cease-fire line and crossing over the border by Iranian soldiers are utter falsehoods.

The remarks by our Foreign Ministry spokesman were made at time when, during the course of the war between the allied forces and Iraq, Iran had adopted a neutral stance and consistently defended the rights of the oppressed Iraqi nation.

By virtue of its belief in the true Islam, and on the basis of what it considers its religious responsibilities, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never had even one iota of doubt regarding the destiny of the Muslims of the world. The Muslims of Iraq remember very well that in the most difficult conditions the Islamic Republic of Iran hastened to provide medical assistance and pharmaceutical goods to the war victims. The sentiments between the two Muslim nations have longstanding historical roots.

Today, what has surfaced in Iraq directly concerns the Iraqi nation and the Iraqi Government and the events that have taken place are evidence of the difficult living conditions of the people in Iraq. The Iraqi Government should have followed a most wise course of political action and should have revised its views in categorizing its friends and foes.

Attributing the people's protests to neighboring countries and in general to countries, which, if they had wished to capitalize on the present situation, would have had many trump cards by now, can only result in further shattering the people's confidence in the Baghdad ruling party.

Undoubtedly, the irresponsible allegations of some Baghdad officials could jeopardize the present peaceful trend between the two countries and mar its future prospects.

If the Islamic Republic of Iran had intentions of any military action on the borders between the two countries, it could have taken advantage of the earlier opportunities but not now when the Muslim Iraqi nation is in need of all kinds of assistance in meeting its daily requirements.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of its belief in the pure Muhammadan Islam, considers itself responsible for the future of all Muslims of the world, but it does not interpret that belief as a right to intervene in the internal affairs of all countries, in particular of the Muslim and neighboring countries.

U.S. Policy Called 'Irreversible Blunder'

NC0404181591 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 27 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "A Repetition of Error"]

[Text] One of the reasons why the Western world and their Arab allies had to get involved in such a costly confrontation with Iraq was because of their unreasonable fear of the Islamic Revolution or the Islamic Republic in Iran.

At its inception, the fear of the new and unknown Islamic revolution and the desire to see it dead led to the so-called Iraqi-imposed war. Later on this fear translated into an ill-conceived and unconditional support for Baghdad. All this with the aim of making sure it could face, challenge and defeat Iran; not realizing it would afterwards create a formidable problem for themselves. So the support gave rise to one of the most heavily fortified and brutal regimes if not in the world, at least in the Middle East.

Of course, it should be acknowledged that the all-out support that the West gave to the Iraqi regime was not all because of their own conscious decision. Baghdad conned them magnificently. Early-on, after the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war and because of certain mistakes by Tehran that played into its hands, Baghdad learned of the West's ignorance and fear of the Islamic Revolution and made the most of it to get concessions—in the form of military and economic support. Thus the West and specially the Americans succumbed to the Iraqi regime's ploy, despite their sophisticated technology and intelligence gathering system. And just as Iran suffered at the hands of the Iraqi regime, its Arab allies (most notably Kuwait) did too.

Now after the occurrence of two wars—the first one with Persian Iran and the second with the combined Arab-Western force—the West, or the Americans in particular, seem to be committing another irreversible blunder: one that will have its own particular or as-yet unknown consequences. Once again Saddam is using the Arab and Western fear of the Islamic Republic and Islam to dupe them. History has a strange way of repeating itself. Once again the West has decided to throw its conscious or unconscious weight behind Saddam.

The uprising in Iraq is real and genuine and no one should doubt that. What else can Baghdad expect of the Iraqi people in view of the mess that it has brought them into by having completely destroyed that country. Two months ago Iraqis had everything, or almost everything, but now they have nothing and their uprising is a natural and spontaneous reaction to the trauma and catastrophe their regime inflicted on them.

The tactic that the Iraqi regime has resorted to is its claim that the south-north uprising in Iraq is externally orchestrated and that Iran is the main culprit behind it. Saddam is saying what the Kurds in the north and the Muslims in the south are doing is at the active instigation and involvement of Iran, as if the Iraqis are all vegetables. And it seems the Americans, despite their public and official announcements to the contrary have bought that line. Otherwise what reason could there be for their stretching and adjusting of the cease-fire provisions to accommodate Saddam?

In addition to tanks and heavy artillery, Baghdad's loyalists have resorted to helicopter gunships to stifle the aspirations of the Iraqi people for freedom. Iraq's use of aircraft in battling freedom fighters clearly violates the

terms of a temporary ceasefire that went into effect last month but the Americans seem to be very alertly oblivious of that.

All in all, there seems to be a decided equivocation on the part of Washington as the Iraqi regime is concerned. Not long ago they were asking for the overthrow of Saddam. Now that the Iraqis are doing their best to do just that, Washington has had a change of mind due to illogical fear on Muslims in

Resumption of Ties With Saudi Arabia Viewed

NC0404184191 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 30 Mar 91 p 4

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "Iran and Saudi Arabia Reestablish Diplomatic Relations"]

[Excerpts] Diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia resumed on March 26. Saudi Arabia is said to have somewhat accepted Iran's conditions as regards the number of pilgrims and the ceremonies for renunciation of polytheists. [passage omitted]

Political relations between the IRI [Islamic Republic of Iran] and Saudi Arabia were always shaky and unstable in the years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. The reason was that the Saudis were never independent in their decisionmakings and could never act in their foreign policy without being influenced by the U.S. and political pressures. The Saudi government's efforts at reestablishing relations with the IRI after a period of 12 years of suspicious attitudes toward the Islamic Revolution, should be evaluated with the utmost care and hesitation. In the past year, highranking Saudi officials on various occasions voiced eagerness at promotion of diplomatic ties with Islamic Iran and repeatedly urged the IRI to forget the past.

There is no doubt that this expression of willingness could not be unrelated to war events and the role the Saudis played in dragging the foreign forces to the region. The Saudis became detested before the region's and the world's Muslim public opinion for hosting half a million infidel and capricious American troops in the land of 'Haramayn Sharifayn' [the two holy places] and to come out of this whirlpool had to promote ties with the IRI. Nevertheless, the emphasis of the Saudis on the need to forget their past wrong presentations vis-a-vis the Islamic Revolution is a clear evidence on their spiteful and groundless hostility towards Islamic Iran in the recent years. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of the Iranian people the Saudis' extensive support for the Ba'thist Iraqi regime in its bloody war against the IRI, that is the same bitter reality that the Saudi clan tried to deny for eight years but in the course of the Persian Gulf war openly admitted several times, is an unforgivable crime which cannot be easily removed from the mind of the public opinion. [passage omitted]

Islamic Iran is a country whose government and people attach great significance to the sacred land of Hejaz and to the holy shrines and have unquestionable interests in them which compel them to maintain relations with a government which willingly or unwillingly is custodian of Islamic sites.

The IRI looks at its relations with the Saudi government merely in the context of carrying out the assignment delegated it in the area of hajj and Islamic precepts. Naturally the Saudi government's attitude towards hajj and its rituals again can be determining in future relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Yet the most optimistic attitude is that the Saudis are now feeling that their past hostile and deceptive relations cannot be durable.

And in order to establish a healthy and logical relationship they have no option but to compensate for their past policies and correct their wrong behavior towards the Islamic Revolution. It is expected that the Saudis would this time, take up and understand the issues more wisely and look at the realities of the region and the necessities of the Islamic world away from foreign pressures and more insight.

Now that the two countries are on the threshold of reestablishing of diplomatic relations, a new opportunity has come up for the Riyadh government to practically show the extent of its honesty regarding the improvement of relations.

Editorial on Aftermath of Saddam's Defeat

NC0404153891 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 30 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Diplomat's Survey Unkind to CW"]

[Excerpts] A good deal of conventional wisdom offered a month before Saddam's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, up until the abject surrender of the Ba'thist forces following 90 hours of ground fighting on February 28 has proved to be as worthless as a straw dog. More than a few lines of the nonsense were served up in this column. But as one local diplomat observed, there is a lot of egg on many faces and plenty of commentators, generals and political types have discovered their trousers around their knees. Our ambassador has made a review of the variety of analyses proffered before the UN deadline of January 17 and now possesses a long list of misstatements and faulty analysis. [passage omitted]

Very little of what was predicted came to pass and much that was not has. The Americans were overwhelmed at how easy things went—less than 200 allied war deaths versus a possible 100,000 Iraqi fatalities. In the aftermath of war and with Iraq's domestic situation rapidly unraveling, the Americans again seem overwhelmed, this time in the negative, with respect to a plan of action.

The refugee influx into Iran which did not materialize with the U.S. invasion as was forecast, has gained momentum with the onset of the entirely unforeseen civil war. UNDRO [United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator] says 45,000 Iraqis have come into Iran from southern Iraq. Four thousand more have made their way into a U.S. military camp and the vast majority of the 60,000 Iraqi POWs are refusing repatriation. The unexpected rapid success of Operation Desert Storm has thus created a maelstrom of its own and is raging out of control just as surely as are the oil well fires in Kuwait.

After having organized 30 nations and the wealth of the entire industrialized world to meet an army whose dimensions and capabilities were purposely and wildly inflated, the Americans now sit in mute silence while the same army and leader are committing atrocities to squash an uprising that covers the whole of Iraq.

The crimes include dropping napalm and white phosphorus bombs on civilian areas from helicopters, the deployment of which was proscribed by the U.S. dictated ceasefire. Baghdad is also threatening the use of chemical weapons.

The situation on the ground is murky. Conflicting reports concerning the control of Najaf, Karbala' and Karkuk abound. As with the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the West seems content to let Saddam do anything to retain power. An alternative regime democratically addressing the needs of Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds is a prospect the West and the Arab alliance want to avoid. The specter of something even vaguely Islamic coming to power in Iraq could see a save Saddam movement emerge from the Arab League summit in Cairo.

Conventional wisdom? Our diplomat might say that today, with regard to Iraq's future and its impact on the region, there is simply none around.

* RESALAT Reports 15, 22 Jan Majles Sessions

15 Jan Session

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[Text] Legal and Majles Department—The Majles met in public session yesterday morning, afternoon, and evening. The only item on the agenda was the national budget for the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

The Plan and Budget Committee secretary began by discussing the committee's approach to studying the budget and the changes it made in the government's bill, which was printed in the previous issue. Then opponents and supporters gave their views. (It is worth mentioning that the views of the deputies opposing and favoring the bill which were presented at last night's Majles session will be printed for you in the next issue).

Seyyed 'Ali 'Avazadeh (opponent)

At yesterday's public Majles session Mr. Avazadeh, Shirvan deputy, as the first opponent, gave his views on the 1370 national budget. He began by noting the responsibilities and duties of the Majles deputies with regard to the national budget. He said: The results of implementing the national budget are legally and under religious law the responsibility of those who vote for it. The Majles deputies must therefore take note of their legal and religious responsibilities, and vote on the national budget after taking into consideration the existing realities. He said: There is no doubt that the president of the Republic and the members of the government's Council of Ministers have taken effective steps to rebuild the nation's economy, but because of the budget's vast dimensions, all its aspects must be discussed and studied.

Mr. Avazadeh discussed Article 104 of the public expenditure tribunal law concerning settlement of the budget, which was produced as the result of a study by the Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Finance and the report on that to the public expenditure tribunal. He said: The Majles must consider a budget which not only has received every kind of analysis, commentary and consideration, but one whose every detail as submitted to the Majles has also been so considered. It seems that the Plan and Budget Organization and the executive branch have shown no desire of any kind to do this.

He added: Articles 1, 27, 37, and 50 of the Plan and Budget and Public Expenditure Law are among the articles which have not been observed by the government, and the lack of compliance with them is no less than that of Article 104.

Mr. Avazadeh also cited the bill's non-conformity with the Five-Year Plan as one of his reasons for opposing the 1370 national budget bill. He said: One of the government's important successes is the preparation, enactment and implementation of the nation's five-year economic, social and cultural expansion plan, and in the next five years the nation has delineated good horizons for the general goals, but if concern is not directed to all the plan's dimensions or if part of it is forgotten, there can be no hope for its success.

He said: One of the goals of the plan is organization and geographic distribution of the population and activities appropriate to the relative tastes of each region. Therefore in the budget for the plan's second year, we must meet at least two-fifths of the plan's goals, but in the 1370 national budget law no practical steps were taken.

He also asked what practical steps the Plan and Budget Organization took concerning Note 7 of the Five-Year Plan, whose implementation would prevent capital from being concentrated in the non-government sectors and would direct capital into agriculture.

Mr. Avazadeh gave as another of his reasons for opposing the 1370 national budget law the spread of government companies, most of which according to him operate at a loss.

He also criticized Note 15 in the annual national budget. He said: The executive organizations use this note for unnecessary matters such as pointless trips abroad, aid given with nothing in return, the purchase of carpets, placing advertisements in the newspapers, buying bouquets of flowers and buying gifts for the children of their employees. With such activities, are we to spend 50 percent of the national budget on executive projects? He said: Of the 7,800 billion rials in the public budget, the government spends 4,593 billion rials outside the public expenditure, and based on the calculations of the public expenditure tribunal, 1,100 billion rials of that amount is outside the general laws and regulations of the government.

He emphasized: If Note 15 is also approved this year, the executive organizations will obtain permission to spend illegally 609 billion rials more than in the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]. Therefore, approving this note will severely damage the country.

Mr. Avazadeh directed the attention of the Majles deputies to the point that when the public expenditure tribunal convicted the chief of a government institution who had committed a violation of spending unauthorized funds, the pertinent minister agreed that the funds in question should be paid from the authorizations in Note 15, and that a slip for this should be sent to the public expenditure tribunal.

***Ali Aqa Mohammadi (proponent)**

Mr. Aqa Mohammadi, Hamadan deputy, was the first speaker in favor of the budget bill. In his talk he analyzed former conditions and their continuation in the language of the Five-Year Plan. He said: In the plan approved by the Majles it has been said that if former trends continue, the nation's economy can expect the national product and per-capita income, which was 114,000 rials in 1356 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] at fixed prices and decreased in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] to 58,900 rials, meaning an annual decrease of 10 percent, to drop in 1377 [21 March 1998-20 March 1999] to 37,900 rials. In reality the rate of decrease will be 4.5 percent and this means the spread of public poverty.

Likewise, the ratio of investment to gross domestic product which was 27.4 percent in 1356, decreased to 15 percent in 1367. If this trend continues it will be 12 percent in 1377, meaning it will change to 88 percent consumption and 12 percent investment.

On the other hand the Five-Year Plan says that the per-capita personal expenditures indicator, which is an indicator of social welfare, was 53,000 rials in 1356 and dropped to 34,000 rials in 1367, and if this trend had continued, in 1377 it will drop to 19,000 rials, meaning the per-capita expenditures of the people would decrease

5.6 percent annually. On the one hand investment would have decreased, and on the other hand public welfare would have decreased.

The budget deficit was 365.5 billion rials in 1356 and increased to 2,400 billion rials in 1367, and more than 50 percent of the government's public budget was deficit. In this situation, the volume of currency in circulation increased to 15,328 billion rials in 1367, and it is clear that when production does not increase, demand is still high and the volume of currency in circulation is high, prices go up, and if those trends had continued, in the year 1377 the budget deficit will reach 3,600 billion rials.

The Hamadan deputy added: The problems of the war, the severe drop in the nation's foreign exchange income, the lack of a specific plan to manage the economy, the failure to explain the structure of the economy in terms of the limits and responsibilities of the government and non-government sectors, the existence of an ineffective administrative system, unnecessary organizations, staff inflation and duplicated effort, the existence of a variegated payment system in the government system, the expanded dimensions of social and cultural problems because the nation's population is younger, and the economic policies that have existed have created problems which we must take steps to solve.

He added: On this basis during the plan we said that because the rate of foreign exchange is not logical, it must be stabilized.

The government's basic development activities must expand, some of the expenses the people can pay must be transferred to society; otherwise the government cannot be secured within and the drop in education and the like will be created. Concerning the budget deficit, let us adopt a course whereby by the end of the year [20 March 1992] it will be down to 92 billion rials. In implementing this policy we said how the government's income should be and how its expenditures should be. Something which has come out in the form of a bill today is the result of what we have enumerated as defects and presented solutions. These changes must be made so we can do the rest of the work in the second plan.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Aqa Mohammadi said: Development expenditures were 357 billion rials in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] and dropped to 168 billion rials in 1367, and what is in the bill now is 415.4 billion rials. Development activities are increasing by 52 percent (at current prices) over last year and 47 percent (at fixed prices).

He said the lack of conformity of some measures in the budget bill with the Five-Year Plan is due to Majles legislation after the plan was made and the unforeseeable conditions. For example, he said that 106 billion rials have been added in connection with the supplemental budget of 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983], which covers costs pertaining to released prisoners of war and other things. We have increases of 80 billion rials pertaining to the costs of implementing the Army Law, 126

billion rials in the Army itself to implement the Army Law, and 200 billion rials pertaining to the costs of increasing staff salaries.

Likewise, the 115 billion rials increase in the financial burden arises from the revenue bill written by the joint committee of economy and finance and plan and budget, and 200 billion rials has been added to revenues and 115 billion rials was added to expenses which were not in the Five-Year Plan.

***Abdollah Nowruzi (opponent)**

Mr. *Abdollah Nowruzi, Malayer deputy, was the second speaker in opposition to the budget. He thanked the government, the plan and budget commission and the special committees for their efforts and said:

The principle of the budget and the trend that has been followed in these few years is questionable. How much can this trend answer to the needs of society, and what worth is attached to its results, and how much can this bill estimate the goals of the revolution?

He then added: This bill is not adequate because despite the work that was done during the war and the shortages and the economic problems in the last few years which changed the faces of many rural areas and cities, the direction of the budget, the extent and quality of growth, the physical expansion, the timetable, as well as the limits on participation and use of non-government resources and the expenses of banks, government companies and organizations affiliated with the government are not clear. In any case, even if quantifiable growth has taken place, the investments made were not just and have not been made based on the needs, regulations and talents. Rather, unfortunately this work has produced relationships based on the tastes of the experts, levers of pressure, the concentration of resources in certain places and inattention to and forgetting about many other places. The minimum outcome of such work is countless migrations from the rural areas to the towns and from the towns to the provincial centers, Tehran and several large cities.

Elsewhere in his opposition to the budget bill, the Malayer deputy discussed the distribution of funds in the provinces that suffered the damages during the war. He said: In a province where not even one bullet was fired and which is hundreds of kilometers from the fronts, they allocated 15 billion rials for direct losses from the war, but in the province of Hamadan and other provinces that were under direct fire and which suffered severe losses, they allocated three billion rials. Is this budgeting? He sharply criticized the activities of the Plan and Budget Organization and noted: My objection is to the organizations, not the individual. It is my belief that the Plan and Budget Organization has gotten away from its legal responsibilities, and instead of adhering to priorities and regulations, it acts according to taste, and its experts have the final say. Even now the executive organizations are seeking out the experts in this organization to get their approval.

Mr. *Abdollah Nowruzi discussed the work of the government companies, the banks and the police institutions affiliated with the government. He said: To what extent so far has the work of such companies been investigated? In view of the fact that the ministries administer most of the companies, some companies, such as the Iran Communication Company, which has become like a ministry, get a lot of money from the people and their reach is long, and despite this they compete vigorously with the Tehran Municipality Office. Some of them are building airports, impressive swimming pools, and sometimes they act generously like Hatam (a man known in history for his liberality). Why do organizations do their work with the money they have, when they ought to put it into the treasury? What regulations? Our committee wanted to suspend its work, and even discussed it with Mr. Karrubi, because it could not supervise the work. We are talking about the 11 billion rials? that was allocated for the companies and government institutions. Where are these things monitored and investigated?

He also discussed the government's foreign exchange budget. He said: If the foreign exchange budget's commitments are not met, would they not get loans and use the foreign exchange reserves? This is a danger signal to all of us.

Karim Shafe'i (proponent)

Mr. Shafe'i, Marand deputy, spoke as the second supporter. He said: We saw the principles, sectors, policies and plans in the Five-Year Plan, and one-fifth of the annual budgets must be assistance to the government for carrying out that plan.

When the matter of emigration to the cities is discussed, one must realize how we have specified the matter of emigration and the policies preventing it in the Five-Year Plan Law, and the remarks of the opposition should have pointed out where it is in the 1370 national budget that close attention must have been paid to the matter of emigration.

He discussed the procurement of the revenues provided in the Five-Year Plan and the work of the government. He said: The taxes we expected for the first seven months of 1369 are 1,003.3 billion rials, 868.6 billion rials of which have been collected. This is actually a figure lower than the figure expected for the 1369 national budget. Oil and gas revenues for the first seven months of 1369 were 328.6 billion rials, of which 105.8 billion rials have been collected. In other revenues, the figure expected was 757.4 billion rials, of which 1,181.2 billion rials have been collected, a higher amount than expected. The total collections expected for the first seven months was 3,306.3 billion rials, of which 3,253.1 billion rials have been collected, meaning we have collected 98.4 percent of the amount expected. In the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] 366 billion rials in taxes were collected, and this figure increased to 898 billion rials in 1369. Continuing his remarks, the Marand deputy said

that we consider the trend of the government's work in collections and expenditures and expenses to be successful, and in the area of operational budget allocations, we had 1,793 billion rials, and in the first seven months of 1369 we have 2,227.7 billion rials. These operational budget allocations include the organizations and strengthening of the defense.

In the capital investment area, the total allocations for the first seven months of 1369 is 1,025.4 billion rials. Our expectation for the first seven months was 963.9 billion rials, meaning the government was able to absorb 106.4 percent of the allocations expected for capital investment, and this is a good and satisfying figure.

In the area of national development projects, 103 percent of what was expected for the first seven months of 1369 has been collected, and 156.4 percent of what was expected has been collected for the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas sector.

Mr. Shafe'i, Marand deputy, added: Therefore, although in the area of tax collection the government has been 89.6 percent effective, meaning it has collected a figure lower than expected, in the oil export and sales sector, which has to do with foreign exchange revenue, we have have 105.8 percent of the expected revenue from the export of oil and gas.

He concluded: The expected funds for revenues and payments have been satisfactorily achieved, and have also been satisfactorily paid and absorbed, and therefore it appears that the government's effectiveness in the economic sector is such that it is taking us in the direction of the plan.

A look at the growth in the gross national product in the year 1368 shows that we had gross national product growth of four percent, and based on what is expected in the plan, by the end of the year 1372 [20 March 1994] we would have to reach 4.8 percent. That is, the government's accomplishment shows that the direction taken by the gross national product is quite positive and one can expect that at the end of 1372 the gross national product will reach 4.8 percent.

Continuing his remarks, he referred to the draft bill submitted by the committee and the executive branch to the Majles. He said: The figures presented in this bill lead us to what the government has done and its executive capability and it also leads us to the answer to the question, are we moving in the direction of the plan or not?

The development expenses provided in the plan for the year 1370 are 1,828.9 billion rials, and the desirable collection of cash in view of the increase in production and the government's tax and financial policies have meant that today we see 225.3 billion rials in the development funds, and this growth will certainly make us and the people hopeful that in the near term we will be able to carry out the development plans and the development growth provided in the plan.

He added: In the year 1368, 76.8 percent of every 100 tomans spent in this country was from operational budget, a figure that reached 70.9 percent in 1369, and it is interesting that in 1370 this figure reached 67 percent in budgeting, meaning the ratio of operational budget allocations to capital development allocations is declining at a hopeful rate.

He emphasized: These figures show that not only we are not behind in the plan, but we are significantly ahead of it, and it is for this reason that we must necessarily support the budget so it can be enacted.

In 1367 currency in circulation in the country grew 24.2 percent, while in the year 1368 this figure decreased to 19.5 percent and in the first six months of the year 1369 it dropped to 8.4 percent. It has been stated repeatedly that we have set a figure for the growth of inflation in the plan, meaning we must believe that we will not bring inflation down to zero. Reduction in the rate of increase does not mean a drop in prices, but rather a drop in the rate of price increases.

Khodakaram Jalali (opponent)

Mr. Khodakaram Jalali spoke as the third opponent with regard to the overall 1370 national budget.

He stated that the focus of his opposition had to do with inattention to the agricultural sector and he cited parts of messages from his holiness the imam (peace be upon him) and the exalted leader with regard to the agriculture. He said: Under conditions when we get 30 percent of our food from imports, according to existing statistics about 55 percent of the water resources, 64 percent of the soil resources, 75 percent of the marine resources and 70 percent of the wood and feed production resources in the country remain unused. While the development funds in the 1370 national budget law shows 60 percent increase compared to that of 1369 budget, and 44 percent increase compared to what was prescribed in the Five-Year Plan for the year 1370, why should the agricultural sector development funds be two percent lower in the government bill than in the Five-Year Plan? Do we want to set the priorities for the agricultural sector in this way, and is this the fruit of all of his holiness the imam's emphasis on concern for this sector?

He added: The 1370 national budget bill shows that in general the planners and national budget insiders not only do not believe in giving priority to the agricultural sector, they do not even pay as much attention to agriculture as they do to other sectors, and if it were otherwise, in the government's bill presented to the Majles the only sector whose development budget is lower than that provided in the Five-Year Plan would not be agriculture.

Elsewhere in his talk, he added: There were items that ought to have been in the budget bill based on enacted legislation and the Five-Year Plan, but unfortunately no attention of any kind has been paid to them. Although the Plan and Budget Committee has announced that it

accepts items for which there are specific laws, they did not accept most of the proposals from the Experts Committee.

The law guaranteeing purchases of basic agricultural crops has been imperfectly implemented, because the respected government has not created the necessary tools to implement this law.

He added: Because of the lack of sufficient warehouses and silos, the government has made its maximum effort only on the purchase of wheat, and we see that in the buying season they use very unsuitable and uncovered warehouses. We need silos with a capacity of at least three million tons and we need 10 million tons capacity for other other storage, and this topic is not seen in the budget bill or has been addressed very weakly. You all know that throughout the country the government does not buy crops for which a guaranteed price has been designated because of the lack of warehouses and silos.

Continuing, Mr. Jalali said: Based on Note 4 of the Five-Year Plan Law, which stresses the primacy of the agricultural sector, during the plan the government is required to take steps to budget what is needed during the course of the plan to carry out new projects to improve water and agricultural projects based on the proposals of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Construction Jihad, and the Ministry of Energy, depending on the project, and with the approval of the Plan and Budget Organization. However, despite the fact that the third year of the plan's implementation has begun, no kind of mechanism has been designed to implement this note.

He noted: The situation for obtaining heavy machinery needed for the agricultural sector and rural development is most undesirable, and for some items even ten percent has not been procured. This has a negative effect on production.

Investment in agricultural industries is so weak and intangible that every year producers of agricultural crops suffer heavy losses, and some crops are not even sufficient for the farmer's consumption.

He added: The matter of subsidies, their high level in the nation's economy and the effects their manner of distribution has on production is a discussion which time does not permit here, but what percentage of these subsidies is paid to the producer and what percentage is paid to the consumer? If the government does not think about fair distribution of these subsidies between urban, rural and tribal people, this will certainly become in itself an incentive to emigrate to the cities.

He stressed: Having correct statistics on the achievement of the objectives of the plan is an important matter and can be effective in studying the annual budget. Unfortunately, the existence of differing and sometimes contradictory statistics makes it difficult to assess the plan. As the annual budgets are part of the Five-Year Plan, it is

necessary that each year statistics on the degree to which the plan's objectives are achieved are provided along with the budget bill.

Mohammad Kazem Mirvalad (proponent)

At yesterday afternoon's Majles session Mr. Mirvalad, Malayer deputy, as the third supporter, regarded the 1370 national budget law as being within the framework of the goals of the government's five-year economic, social and cultural expansion plan. He said: An important matter which has been given attention in the 1370 national budget law is the economic analysis of plans and projects.

He said: In the 1370 budget, borrowing from the Central Bank has been applied precisely in accordance with the Five-Year Plan, and the very figure of 1,211.00 billion rials approved in the Five-Year Plan has been provided in this budget.

The Malayer deputy discussed the government's increased revenues. He said: Government revenues grew 51 percent in 1368 over the year 1367, and it is also expected that in 1370 there will be an increase of 44.9 percent over the year 1369, and this shows a positive direction for the budget plan.

He discussed the increase in tax revenues in the 1370 national budget law. He said: It is expected that in 1370 tax revenues will increase 38.9 percent compared to this year.

He noted: The tax share of the total budget for 1370 is about 32.4 percent, a decrease of one-half percent compared to last year, and this decrease is because government staff are exempt from taxes and there is a fixed ceiling.

Mr. Mirvalad discussed the share of oil and gas revenues in the 1370 national budget law. He said: Gas and oil revenues make up 18.5 percent of the 1370 budget, and this is a decrease from its share of 21.6 percent in last year's budget.

This is a positive trend in the area of decreasing dependence on oil revenues.

He also cited attention to the reconstruction of war-stricken and earthquake-stricken areas and concern for the nation's deprived areas as positive points in the 1370 budget. He said: In the 1370 national budget law attention has been given to expediting the reconstruction of war-stricken areas, and 90 billion rials have been allocated to expediting the reconstruction of earthquake-stricken areas. He added: The allocations provided by the government for development in the districts and villages of the nation's deprived areas has been increased by about 40 billion rials.

The Malayer deputy emphasized the stipulation of the government's responsibilities. He said: If we want the government's policies to succeed we must reduce the size of government organizations as much as possible and

specify the government's main responsibilities in the exercise of authority, and we must refrain from doing things that change the government into a quasi-private entity, because in the past we experienced the damages of privatizing the government.

He also cited the decrease in the operational expenses compared to the total expenses as a positive point in the 1370 budget. He said: In the 1370 budget, despite the increase in the operational expenses, it has still decreased by 2 percent to 68.8 percent of the total.

Mr. Mirvalad cited the increase in oil and gas production capacity and the rapid return of capital, which is about \$15 billion, as a prominent feature of the 1370 national budget law.

He discussed the expected revenues from non-petroleum exports in the 1370 budget. He said: In the 1370 budget about \$3,140 million in revenues from non-petroleum exports is expected, and because of the uncertainty of this revenue source, a separate foreign exchange table has been provided in next year's budget which will create no commitments.

As positive features of the 1370 budget, the Malayer deputy cited the solution to the problem of paying loans to veterans through reduction of commission costs by government, attention to solving the problem of student dormitories, increasing the operational and development budget allocations at universities and institutions of higher learning, and attention to the nation's deprived districts and villages and tribal areas.

Hedayatollah Aqa'i (opponent)

The fourth opponent was Hedayatollah Aqa'i, Fasa deputy, who said in his speech: I have basic objections to the economic policies, which may be clearly found and questioned in this bill.

1—Approaches to the use of resources which in my view violate both the principles of the revolution and the Five-Year Plan, and that includes relying as much as possible on oil revenues, the use of oil revenues for purposes other than basic investment and preparing for the growth and expansion of future generations.

2—The budget's tendency to make the nation's economy bi-polar and deepen the widening gap between the economic classes.

He then discussed the point that we must not make the oil economy the only foundation as the former regime did. He said: Investment must be made in the oil economy so future generations will be able to use it. Unfortunately, since the triumph of the revolution, we have followed the same dictated oil policy. Likewise more than 75 percent of our tax revenues is this very oil money which circulates from hand to hand.

He also noted: In the 1370 national budget bill about \$300 million will be invested in industry, and in my view more than \$100 million will be spent just on amortizing

industrial machinery, and these therefore things may not be considered investment in the industrial sector.

Hedayatollah Aqa'i discussed the foreign exchange costs of investment. He said: The government has proposed \$20 billion as foreign exchange costs, of which only \$3 billion is essential investment, and the rest cannot be called essential investment. Is the almost \$2 billion for defense expenditures investment? This is to buy equipment that will later go off line. Therefore, less than 30 percent of the foreign exchange resources are being used for investment.

He also proposed that we reduce expenses to a minimum to create a balance and increase taxes with the mechanisms that we have.

He criticized the new policy of allocating export foreign exchange to government organizations. He said: This tendency will cause all of our organizations to go and allocate their foreign exchange expenses based on allocated export revenue. They will then line up in front of the Central Bank and demand foreign exchange. I believe that this does not implement the Five-Year Plan.

Hedayatollah Aqa'i then discussed the increase in direct taxes. He said: If taxes increase, the prices of goods will increase proportionately. The sale of gradual and competitive foreign exchange will do nothing but increase direct taxes. This is therefore in violation of the plan. Indirect taxes should increase under the plan, not direct taxes. Anyone can increase direct taxes. It is easy. When you make an item expensive, prior use will be made of it, and this is worse than borrowing. You distance yourself from borrowing and then you go after the pockets of the people. Therefore, in doing what you have done, you have increased direct taxes.

Elsewhere in his talk, he noted: Gathering up the currency in circulation and channeling the public's money into investment is quit a beautiful thing to do, and if we can do this properly and get to a point where we control currency in circulation, it is an essential task and in this control there must either be goods in the hands of the people or it must go in a direction where this currency in circulation is held down. That is, its mechanism should be such that individuals will automatically want to invest their money in productive places, agriculture and industry. This wave of drawing in currency in circulation was well under way and had surpassed 2,000 billion rials. The government was able to gather this currency in circulation. However, with the bill given to the Majles, suddenly this wave has reversed and more than 1.5 times the currency in circulation that had been drawn in will go back into society in fearsome waves, and all those effects will be neutralized.

He also concluded: The result of this will be that the government's foreign exchange policies, in which much hope had been placed, will result in increased prices and the return of currency in circulation among the people when this bill is approved in the year 1370 and a lot of its development projects and funds will be absorbed by

workers, contractors and organizations which have development allocations and most of whom unfortunately are in the government sector. The private sector may work more efficiently than the government sector, and many operational expenses in the government sector must be eliminated. Government organizations have high numbers of employees who were hired as employees in development projects, but then were assigned to other organizations as minor staff members and so on, and unfortunately these organizations use development funds.

Ahmad Nateq-Nuri (proponent)

The fourth supporter was Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, Nur and Mahmudabad deputy. He discussed one deputy's opposition to Note 15 of the budget bill. He said: I remember when we studied the budget in the first year of the third term of the Majles we proposed eliminating Note 15, and dear brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, do this if you want to paralyze the work of the government.

He added: Part of Note 15 pertains to the Armed Forces, the national defense force, the Martyr Foundation, the Relief Committee and costs that should not be divulged openly. It is natural that if we are fully opposed to this, it means we must tell the government not to work.

He said that in the year 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980] after the triumph of the revolution, there were 81,000 deprived villages without water, electricity, public baths, roads and other things. He noted: Are our rural areas in the same condition now, without any investments? Have you not yourselves seen advances in your own areas? When I look at the budget enclosure I see that all the provinces and cities have the projects for asphaltting and road construction which you yourselves (the deputies) are seeking.

He added: If conditions are created in the rural areas which have economic benefits, naturally it will increase the attractions there, and fortunately these things are found in the budget. In the overall budget 115 billion rials is provided for reducing deprivation in the deprived areas and 450 billion rials for the development sectors in the provinces, with more than half the nation's budget available for us to put in economic infrastructure in the rural areas, and, as you say, to reduce the attraction in the cities. Continuing, the Nur and Mahmudabad deputy discussed the budget deficit. He said: The budget deficit in the year 1369 was 1,572 billion rials, while the deficit in the proposed budget for next year is 1,140 billion rials, reducing this figure. How can you say the budget deficit has increased?

Gholam'ali Salehabadi (opponent)

Mr. Salehabadi, Mashhad deputy, was the fifth opponent to the overall budget bill for 1370. In his talk he criticized the nation's development budget for failing to meet the ceiling set in the Five-Year Plan for the year 1370 for carrying out development projects. He said: In practice it has been seen during these past few years that

due to the problems we have with regards to the management of development projects as well as the shortage of construction materials and machinery, the development projects have progressed slowly. Most contractors have been given the work to do again after several years and have then increased the price of the projects. There has therefore been no progress in the nation's development projects.

Mr. Salehabadi criticized costs outside the public expenditure law and said: In the 1370 budget, a frightening figure has been authorized for cost overruns. That figure is more than 50 percent, or almost 450 billion tomans of the nation's budget. It may be possible to control this figure to some extent, but the meaning of our authorizing cost overruns is that in practice the government and the executive organizations have helped to increase inflation across the country.

He also added: With the new foreign exchange policy the government has adopted, exporters are effectively being allowed to spend the foreign exchange from their exports to import raw materials and some items the government needs. Because of foreign exchange contracts coming due, the foreign exchange earned from exports has flooded the black market and the nation's foreign exchange has gone abroad.

He also noted: Why must we always speak in opposition? If the government would carry out its well-designed non-oil export activities in accordance with the plan, we would speak in support. The Mashhad deputy added: The more expensive the foreign exchange on the free market, the more profit exporters earn from it and have more dollars in hand, and therefore the policy adopted has had bad effects on society.

He added: Some imports of goods which have been deregulated have severely damaged domestic production. The minister of heavy industries announced in the Majles Industries Committee that "the way to break automobile prices in the country is for us to open the doors of the country and import vehicles from abroad."

When they announce that they are going to sell Peykans to the people for 750,000 tomans, the same Peykan sells on the market for 1.25 million tomans. It is interesting to see what will happen in the free market with Patrol [as published] which the government sells for 1.7 million tomans. We must turn away from these policies. When imports of vehicles are deregulated, our domestic industries will gradually move towards the foreign markets and domestic production will stop. Unfortunately, instead of removing obstacles to production, the Plan and Budget Organization is doing other things and it is writing the government's budget for the next year. In my view this is a very dangerous thing to do and these activities must be stopped as soon as possible.

Mr. Salehabadi added: The new government has been implementing these policies for a year and a half without our knowing the result. During this period when the

government has been working, has it been able to stop activities like these which are being carried out?

He also compared inflation under the governments of Mr. Musavi and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said: It is true that there was inflation under the government of Mr. Musavi, but it was not a lasting inflation. Inflation came and then it went. But when you come and officially make the price of a color television 45,000 tomans, this is oppression, and in doing this you have institutionalized inflation. Who can buy it? Yet in the past the price of a television was less than 20,000 tomans. When the government itself brings inflation into society, clearly those prices will no longer fall. You can see the price increases for steel and iron at 20 percent. The negative impact of this inflation will be felt by the deprived people.

***Ali-Rahm Yusefpor (proponent)**

The fifth supporter was Mr. Yusefpor, Ardal and Qarian deputy. He discussed the remarks by his holiness the imam on service to the deprived and statements by the exalted leader. He said: The government's high officials love the deprived, and no one doubts this, but because the experts and planners in the executive organizations, especially in the Plan and Budget Organization, were not familiar with the problems of the deprived areas until one or two years ago, they thought that revenues would be wasted in these areas, while if fundamental services were provided in the deprived areas, it would certainly help the nation's economy and consumer costs would go down.

He noted: Through the efforts of the Deprived Areas Support Office, information on the problems and issues in the nation's deprived districts and villages have been compiled and God willing they will be studied in the days to come by the Council of Ministers.

He emphasized: Many of the planning problems in the first decade of the revolution were caused by Majles legislation. The Majles can play a basic role in the matter of decentralization so the budget can be aimed at the deprived areas.

He noted: Very good approaches have been set out in Note 3, and 30 percent of the allocations have been assigned to the deprived areas. In view of the fact that the government has accepted to pay 6 percent of the commission costs for funding projects for veterans, improvement will certainly take place.

He emphasized: One of the opposition deputies called for the removal of Note 15, which was also proposed in the past. The Majles has two responsibilities: 1) legislation, and 2) supervision. Unfortunately, the second responsibility is not carried out much. If the Majles supervised expenses and allocations, there will be no problems. Since this is not being done, restrictions abound and the managers who wish to work have their hands tied. This note must remain to eliminate the management problem. If the bad managers are penalized

and those who do good work are encouraged, we will be more successful. Certainly the freer a manager's hands are and the more flexibility he has in his work, the better the results.

He discussed the remarks of an opponent, who said little attention had been paid to the agricultural sector. He said: Has any agricultural project fallen short and needed funding so far? Agricultural work is different from industry and road construction. The Ministry of Agriculture must reform its structure to get more work done.

He emphasized the increase in the operational budget, attributing it to the need to increase the salaries of Army and Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) personnel and government employees. He said: If the deputies believe that the employee salary situation is in need of correction, when this issue is presented they ought not to oppose it and show that in practice they favor increased salaries. The Majles must reduce excess costs such as the costs of parallel organizations and unnecessary personnel. The system of wages and work place attendance must be corrected.

He emphasized: With the policies that government has adopted, the hands of the brokers, middlemen and leech-like individuals have been cut out, and visible examples are the Nabovat Foundation and the Vidad Company. Over a period of two years these companies misused two to three billion rials, yet in no capitalist country such as America or England does capital suddenly double or triple. The lack of an economic system led to this problem.

Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh (opponent)

The next opponent was Mr. Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, Birjand deputy. Concerning the failure to enforce the law in the country, he said: What is clear and distinct is that in many instances there has been deviation from the Five-Year Plan and the law, and the law has not been observed. Our most difficult and important problem is non-compliance with the laws in the country, and everyone must return to the law.

Comparing the budget of 1369 with that of 1368, he said: The general budget for the year 1369 was twice that of 1368, which we did not anticipate in the Five-Year Plan. Some of these revenues were shown as paper increases. For example the foreign exchange figure in rials could be put at 50 tomans or 140 tomans. Calculations in the plan have been done in this way. By doing these things and concealing the level of the budget, they are acting in violation of the Five-Year Plan, and in reality they are concealing the matter of loans and find excuses to present it as legal but these interpretations will not change the reality. They deregulate foreign exchange, for example they use higher than 40 and 30 tomans, and then they cover it up. The figures are thus increased, yet the figures in the plan were not what we now see in the 1370 budget. We must proceed on the same criteria that are in the plan.

Concerning payments for development, he said: In practice 4,210 billion rials were paid out of the public revenues in the year 1367, and the work of the year 1368 was 4,342 billion rials, and the bill estimates 8,191 billion rials, meaning approximately twice that amount. Opposing an increase in these figures, the Birjand deputy

said: Where does this figure come from? Where is there compliance with the Five-Year Plan?

He said concerning the defense budget: When we combined the IRGC and the Ministry of Defense, all the gentlemen said they would not need a budget. They did not come to get money for specific operations. They just increased it and raised the defense budget above the ceiling set in the plan. Continuing, he said: For which operations and projects did they increase this figure? In view of the consolidation of the IRGC and the Ministry of Defense, the government must explain the reason for the increased defense budget.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Ha'erizadeh discussed oil and gas revenues. He said: In practice oil and gas revenues were 667 billion rials in the year 1367, and in 1368 they reached 770 billion rials. In the government's current budget, which is the product of the government's extended foresight, it has reached 3,900 billion rials. Have our revenues and resources from oil really multiplied five folds?

He discussed increasing the budget for development projects in the deprived areas. He said: The committee, which has added 40 billion rials in this regard, and other figures it has provided for the deprived areas, this year and last year has discussed the deprived areas at length, but the government does not offer any specific plan for expanding development in the deprived areas such as selection of one rural area in each district to serve as a center for development so that some of the rural inhabitants could go to those centers and avoid migration. However, the government has not put forward any specific and codified plan for all the deprived areas. I ask that at the first opportunity the government bring out this codified plan for general improvements saying what it is going to do.

Mostafa Mo'azinzadeh (proponent)

At last night's public session which met at 19:00, Mr. Mostafa Mo'azinzadeh, Kerman deputy, spoke as the sixth supporter.

Concerning the Paragraph 16, Note 26, he emphasized: When the table on non-petroleum exports is separated and attached to each ministry and sector, the meaning is that if the aforementioned sector has exports it may use its export foreign exchange, but if it has no exports, naturally it cannot use foreign exchange. This is a positive policy aimed at warning the organizations that have no exports.

He added: When 70 rials is paid for foreign exchange, imported wheat and meat become cheap, yet with this

foreign exchange, domestic purchases are not economical and domestic production is damaged. The best way to replace imports is for us to invest so that the foreign exchange sent abroad to bring in imports will be removed. For this reason, there are positive directions in the budget bill. For animal husbandry projects, \$30 million is provided, \$40 million is provided for producing cheese and butter. Presently, millions of dollars in foreign exchange are being spent to import these items.

Mr. Mostafa Mo'azinzadeh stressed: In accordance with the Five-Year Plan, \$3.5 billion must be added to the value of industry, meaning \$6 billion in work. Meaning that the sectors intending to build factories, refineries and petrochemical plants must give \$6 billion to industry so the industrial sector will produce for them. In this regard \$300 million has been allocated to the pertinent ministries (mines and metals, industries, and heavy industries), so they can import from abroad the tools necessary for the execution of projects.

He said: The costs of the plan are high in the initial year, because many projects must be started. One solution is for us to say that projects should stop. We have not produced electricity and we will not start up power plants until our foreign exchange income increases, and then we will use them. Another solution is that we authorize the ministries to use their foreign exchange for the coming years up to the limits set in the Five-Year Plan, to be repaid in the following year. Meaning that when resources and revenues have increased, costs will decrease. If for example we want to purchase a 1,000-megawatt power plant which would cost no less than \$800 million, there is no need to pay this sum today. The Central Bank only has to make the commitment and open a letter of credit, and over the period when the power plant is being imported the money can be repaid.

He said: Even now one billion tons of rock coal is at Tabas, and if there is no investment there will be no yield, yet rock coal is being imported for the Esfahan foundry. Existing resources, however, do not permit this. We must either borrow the money or we must authorize the pertinent sector to use the funds it will earn in the years to come.

'Ali Movahedi-Saveji (opponent)

The seventh opponent to the budget bill of 1370 was Mr. 'Ali Movahedi-Saveji, Saveh deputy. He said: Although the 1370 budget has positive foundations compared to the budgets in former years with regard to revenue collections, especially tax revenues, budget deficits, borrowing from the banking system and controlling and anchoring the growth of inflation, at the same time it has problems. Of course I will not vote against the entire budget, but I see problems with regard to the major parts of the bill.

He noted: The failure to implement on time the large and national projects has done great damage to the country, and the implementation costs have more than doubled.

The transportation and shipping crisis, especially overland, has intensified. Transportation and shipping is one of the reasons for the lack of success of our non-petroleum exports. Pricing has meant that a load that ought to be hauled for 10,000 tomans is hauled for 70,000 tomans, and even the government organizations make payments in excess of the allocations by the public expenditure tribunal. Why must it be so?

He said: Among the 1370 budget's other problems is the failure to give priority to the growth of agricultural products and make proper use of the water and soil and other God-given blessings. Attention has not been given to allocations for the agricultural sector along with the growth in development allocations. Agriculture is no longer ahead of industry and is not the focus of expansion. Why should half of the nation's water reserves and resources be wasted?

He emphasized: Another locus of difficulty is the failure to implement the public expenditure law enacted in the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] under which the government is required within three years to remove the special budget and deposit it with the treasury. It makes no sense for every organization that has revenue to keep its own purse. In the year 1370 there ought not to be a special budget.

He added: The heavy inflation of government employees is one of the other problems of the 1370 budget bill, and it is increasing day by day. Instead of decreasing, there are also too many employees in the foundries, the Sar Cheshmeh Copper Mine and in the coal mines, which is causing high prices for goods and inflation in society.

Hojjat ol-Islam Saveji cited the government's failure to submit a coordination system bill before the budget bill as a problem. He said: In its first term the Majles required the government to submit this bill to the Majles within a period of time. Unfortunately, this still has not been done and the payment system is uncoordinated, discriminatory and incorrect.

'Ezzatollah Damadi (proponent)

Mr. 'Ezzatollah Damadi was the seventh supporting speaker. He said:

The opponents have criticized without proposing anything. Criticism is always easy, but solutions and practical steps are quite difficult.

He noted: One of the demands of the people in our country is the activation of the non-government sectors, which has been addressed in the 1370 budget bill. Policies on foreign exchange and collecting currency in circulation, which are effective for anchoring inflation, are given attention in the budget. The area of non-petroleum exports has been very well addressed by encouraging the private sector and removing foreign exchange contracts. The deregulation of the import of raw materials with foreign exchange is a matter that has been effective in developing industry, so that production

statistics in this sector have increased 470 percent and this has been a positive policy-making step. From the year 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] to 1367, the gross national product decreased 5.6 percent each year, yet in the year 1369 there was significant growth. Heavy industries grew 10 percent, the industries covered by government grew 15 percent, and the light tire industries, carpets, bags and paper increased 54, 29, 49 and 71 percent respectively, while statistics for previous years show decreases. Likewise, televisions increased 90 percent, refrigerators 100 percent, and various small vans and semi-heavy trucks increased 69 to 283 percent. In the agricultural sector an increase of 262 percent was created. Various kinds of Souleh and Profil [as published], which were among the positive goods, grew 250 percent.

He added: If borrowing had continued in the same way as in the past, how far high inflation would have gone today? If borrowing has gone from 51 percent of the budget to 15.15 percent, which is unprecedented, is there still a place for complaining and criticism? In the years 1367, 1368, and 1369 the growth of currency in circulation in the private sector was 25, 19.5 and 8.4 percent, which is significant.

He emphasized: Among the important characteristics of the 1370 budget bill is the increased revenue for the year 1370, with an increase of around 45 percent over the year 1369, and investment will play an important role for economic advancement. If we compute the average for the first decade of the revolution, a four-fold increase is seen, unprecedented for the period since the Islamic revolution.

He added: If 11 billion tomans is set aside and maintained to reduce deprivation, will this not have an effect on alleviating deprivation and reducing emigration?

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[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Section—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning and afternoon chaired by Hojjat ol-Islam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

In this session, after remarks by representatives of Jiroft, Moghan and Orumieh, the session was called to order and continued with the deliberations on details of the year 1370 [beginning 21 Mar 1991] national budget bill.

Es'haq Jahangiri, the representative of the people of Jiroft

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Es'haq Jahangiri, the representative of the people of Jiroft. He described the imposed war against Iran as the most important barrier in realization of objectives of the Islamic revolution pertaining to the destruction of Israel and said: After victory of the Islamic revolution, great and sacred objectives were suggested by the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution. First and foremost among these were struggle against

arrogance, especially the criminal America, destruction of Israel, and the sovereignty of the Muslims and the downtrodden. In view of these sacred objectives, it was natural that arrogance resort to various conspiracies. Therefore, with God's grace and prophet-like leadership of the dear imam (may his soul be placed in heaven), steadfastness and resistance of our brave nation, we successfully weathered various conspiracies in the past few years every one of which could topple a well-entrenched government. [passage omitted]

In reference to the nature of the other side of this conflict, America, Mr. Jahangiri said: The nature of America is quite clear to Muslims and, more so, to our nation. [passage omitted] The imam said that America is the culprit in all miseries and difficulties of the Muslim world. America has been the initiator of all conspiracies against our nation. Even the imposed war against our nation was initiated by the order of the America. At a time when our heroic nation was proceeding to determine the fate of the war differently from what America had in mind, the transgressors who face each other today entered into war against our nation jointly. One was shooting down the passenger airliner in Persian Gulf and the other was pouring missiles into Tehran.

He pointed out: On one side are America, Kuwait and, especially, Saudi Arabia which have been the biggest criminals against the revolution of the Muslim nation of Iran. Massacre of Muslim pilgrims by the criminal regime of Al Sa'ud was an issue that more than any other event caused heartache for our kind imam to the point that the imam stated even if we disregard the issue of Jerusalem or the issue of Saddam, we cannot disregard the issue of Hejaz [deaths of Iranian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia]. Therefore, it may be decisively stated that the two antagonist sides, jointly and in harmony, inflicted the strongest and heaviest of blows on our revolution during the past several years. We cannot consider either side as healthy and justice-seeking people.

He referred to the motives of both sides of the Persian Gulf conflict and said: Repentance and recovery do exist in our Islamic school of thought. Has one side of this conflict felt remorseful about the past and, in order to make up for the past, has entered into this conflict with a sacred motivation? The start of the Iraqi regime's move was transgression against Kuwait. Was it because the ruler of Kuwait was a monstrous criminal and had committed crimes against Islam and Muslims that Kuwait was subjected to this aggression or merely Saddam's power-seeking nature prompted him to commit this act? Certainly, Iraqi regime's actions from the start of this conflict until now have had nothing to do with implementation of justice and righteousness—although it does not mean that we are not pleased with some of its present acts. Even the missile attack against Israel, which has caused much pleasure in our hearts, is not for the purpose of destroying Israel and is aimed only at widening the war.

He added: The motivation of America and its allies is not to repel the transgression. The claim of repelling the transgression is only an excuse, since Kuwait is not the first nor the last country that has been subjected to transgression. How could it be believed that America, which is the ring-leader in violators against the rights of the people of the world, could have charitable intentions today? No crime occurs in this world without America having a hand in it in some way. American transgressions against Granada, Panama and other instances are among the obvious examples in the world. It may be definitely said that, Saddam gave the best excuse to America so that, for the purpose of gaining dominance over important world energy reserves which shall be paramount in the future polarization of the world, it can have the first word.

While emphasizing the solidarity of Muslims, the representative of the people of Jiroft said: With the oil reserves at their disposal, if Muslims unite they can certainly have the second word in the future world.

He asserted that the principle motivation behind American presence in the Persian Gulf is to control the Islamic revolution and said: The foremost motivation behind American presence in the Persian Gulf is to prevent the destruction of the usurper rulers of the Islamic countries. With the awareness that the Islamic revolution has transmitted to Muslims, we have been expecting the fall of the treacherous rulers of the Muslim countries and the most significant motivation of America is to halt the propagation of the Islamic revolution and control the revolution.

While commending the wise policies of officials of the Islamic Republic in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis, he said: From the initial stage of the crisis, both sides of the conflict tried to involve us in this war. During the early days of Iraq's transgression against Kuwait we were receiving messages and signals from Westerners to the effect that we should go ahead and attack Iraq to redeem our rights and that the West will help us. Perhaps, if we had not wisely controlled our emotions and had thought that suitable opportunity is at hand to avenge the martyrs, we would have unwisely joined this skirmish.

He said: We were saved from this conspiracy because of wisdom of the officials of the regime. Thus, after we told the Westerners that we are serious in our peace with Iraq, they are inviting us to war from other channels. We remember that during the struggle against the Shah's regime a correspondent asked the imam (may his soul be placed in heaven) if we are willing to cooperate with communists in the struggle against the Shah. And the imam responded that we will cooperate with communists in order to confront the shah. Therefore, our involvement in a war that none of the belligerents are fighting for justice and there lacks a minimum accountable and trustworthy force is meaningless and unjustifiable. However, we should be true to objectives and aspirations of our revolution. In his repeated messages,

our gracious imam continually warned us about American crimes against Muslims and showed us the way.

He considered the destruction of Israel to be among the most important objectives of the imam and said:

Destruction of Israel was among the most important objectives of the imam. At a time when the danger of reduced attention to the Jerusalem among Muslims was being felt, his eminence the imam (may God place his soul in heaven) announced the International Jerusalem Day so that world Muslims commemorate at least once every year the Jerusalem until the suitable time when they could launch practical action against Israel. Therefore, all our efforts should be aimed at active, vigorous and healthy participation of people on the scene since one of the most important objectives behind American presence in the region is to confront the Islamic revolution. According to the dear imam, America is the culprit behind all our miseries and the truly treacherous against our country is America. [passage omitted]

With the assertion that Israel's involvement in the Persian Gulf war shall lead to the confrontation by all the world Muslims against Israel, the representative of the people of Jiroft said: If the Zionist regime attacks or transgresses upon an Islamic country, it shall push forward the time of the all-out Muslims move and the Muslim people of the Islamic Iran, whose keepsake from the imam is that Israel should be destroyed, will implement the order of the commander in chief with regards to the formation of an independent front to fight the occupation regime of Jerusalem. We are certain that all the free people and revolutionaries of the world will join our ranks.

He called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to show more serious reaction towards the merciless aggression of America against the helpless people of Iraq and said: Regretfully, all the bombs that are being dropped and the resources that are being destroyed in this war are all acquired with Muslim money. It is required of the Majles and the government to take on more active diplomacy and, while asserting the position of the Islamic Republic, insist on the speedy departure of multi-national forces from the region—the culprit of which is America. Our Muslim people cannot bear to see the first qiblah of Muslims in the hands of Zionists and the land of inspiration, Mecca, and the glorious Medina under the boots of infidels. The House of Al Sa'ud has committed the worst treachery against Muslims and, according to our dear imam, is not fit to administer the two shrines. As the imam said, God willing, we shall wipe out the sadness in our hearts at a suitable time by taking revenge from America and the House of Al Sa'ud.

Habib Borumand, the representative of the people of Moghan

Mr. Habib Borumand, from Moghan constituency was the second pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles.

He stated: America, this natural enemy of Islam, Muslims, the Islamic revolution and the world downtrodden has found a good and suitable opportunity to strike its last blows stemming from its old animosity against the lives, belongings, resources and existence of Muslims in Persian Gulf region. [passage omitted on the wolfish nature of the U.S.]

On another day, it [the U.S.] launched the blind-hearted and hungry hypocrites against our revolution and took from us such loved ones as Martyrs Beheshti and Bahrar. Finally, in a new conspiracy, it imposed a devastating war upon us. In this war, [America] did not hold back any and all aid, covert and overt, to our enemy and by deploying its forces to the Persian Gulf directly struck against us. It also resorted to such audacious crimes as targeting the passenger airliner which led to the martyrdom of 290 innocent and defenseless passengers. It was at such a time when Saddam—this lackey of imperialism and zionism, this crazy, domineering, blood-thirsty and heretic murderer—launched upon our lives and did not refrain from killing our people, destroying our homes and villages and pillaging our belongings. [passage omitted on destruction of national treasures]

He [Saddam] turned the war between himself and us into the Arab-Persian war and committed the most flagrant disrespects through his mass media against the sacred presence of his eminence the imam even after the sad passing of the imam. He poured upon our heads and that of our youths and the defenseless people of Halabje chemical bombs, the gift of the West and East, and spilled the blood of two hundred thousand of our youths and martyred them. He wounded, disabled, orphaned and widowed hundreds of thousands of people. Now, how come you refer to this wild beast as Khalid Ibn Valid. I am surprised at some people who, until yesterday, were scolding the head of the government for accepting peace and writing to Saddam and who asserted that peace with this person is bondage. Presently, however—without the fate of the resolution [598] being clear and the fate of a great number of our POWs not yet determined—they are feeling sorry for Saddam and shout that we should all bear arms and fight imperialism in order to protect him and his deceitful army or join ranks with the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] (who have placed themselves under Saddam's umbrella—announcing their readiness recently, fearing their lives, that they will participate in the war [in support of] Saddam's soldiers).

With what jurisprudence and support are these [supporters of Saddam] declaring Jihad and consider this so-called commander of Qadesiyeh [where the Sasanid army was defeated by the Islamic army] as an equal to Khalid Ibn Valid? Did Khalid Ibn Valid not fight under the supervision and command of the guardian of the cause of Muslims at that time? Has Saddam accepted the guardianship of the cause to fight against the enemy under the command of the guardian of the cause of Muslims so that we may join hands with him?

He added: I swear to Almighty that the miserable Saddam, with his trickery, is trying to use Islam as a tool to implement his evil and filthy objectives and thus is aiming to gather the gullible and the spiteful around himself.

In this connection the speaker added: It is my belief and view that Saddam is striking the heart of Israel with his missiles only to attract Arabs and Muslims toward himself and his deed is neither God's satisfaction nor the desire to liberate Palestinian land. I emphasize here that, families of martyrs will never agree to give aid to Saddam and I believe that prayers and curses of fathers and mothers of martyrs and cries of the unprotected orphans have damned Saddam and entrapped him in a hell from which is no return. Those who give him aid in this path shall also be damned by the cries of orphans. Saddam is the same person who for eight years submitted to the will of Western and Eastern powers and wasted all the resources of Iraq. Now, wanting to disobey the Western and Eastern powers, he is aiming to engulf the lives of Iraqi citizens in fire. I thank God that the forces which had joined hands and, by using Saddam as a front, were attacking us with all their might are now taking the restless lives of each other. Also, I shall bluntly say to those who think Saddam must be helped that, if you feel so sorry for this unruly and blood-letting man the road is open for you. Please go and register in the popular army of Saddam, take weapons from him, involve yourselves in the war and, as you claim, defend Islam. Since our weapons are the result of the unjustly spilt blood of martyrs at the hands of Saddam, no one has the right to use them in defense of Saddam.

In conclusion, he asked the administrator of the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificers Foundation for better care and attention to the lot of self-sacrificers of his constituency.

Ali Kamyar, the representative of the people of Urumiyeh

Mr. Kamyar from Urumiyeh constituency was the third and last pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles. [passage omitted]

In connection with the current Persian Gulf crisis, he said: Officials of our Islamic regime made the best decision in adopting the position of neutrality. It is befitting for me to offer my heartfelt thanks, commendation and prayer to these loved ones and ask God for their ever-increasing success because the American presence in the region is not aimed at repelling aggression and the other side with its shameful past cannot warrant the support of the Iranian nation. Regretfully, some in their reasoning of their argument in favor of standing by Saddam very easily say that, we have no argument about the past. However, it is clear to everyone that the past is the guiding light for the future. The present situation of Saddam is the epilogue of his past behavior and [there is no evidence] that he has gone through a substantive change. How can Saddam's crimes against Iran during

the past eight years be forgotten? And how can the murder of Martyr Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr and his learned nephew and the Hakim family be forgotten? [How can] the massacre of the people of Halabje as a result of chemical bombings be forgotten? And how can the fact that the criminal Iranian hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] were given refuge in Iraq and armed themselves against Iran and thousands of other crimes can be forgotten? Still the tortures of the released POWs in Bathist camps are the subject of talks in gatherings and communities of Iranian nation.

He added: The criminal America has used the occupation of Kuwait to justify the presence of its 600-thousand-man foreign force in Islamic countries. It is true that presently we are in this position and the Muslim Iraqi nation is being martyred under the bombings of the world arrogance (the criminal America). However, did this nation not fall in its own blood in Halabje by Saddam's hands? The fact that he is attacking Israel in an attempt to cover up [his] occupation of Kuwait is due to the fact that he has no other alternative. This is the second time that he has caused the presence of arrogant forces in Persian Gulf. Once, when he attacked Iran in compliance with their order and when he found himself incapable, called on them to interfere and assist him. This is the second time and Kuwait's occupation has become the excuse for their presence in Persian Gulf. Without Kuwait's occupation they would not have an excuse to be here.

He emphasized: One must not judge simple-mindedly. It must be understood that today Saddam has not risen to confront Israel in compliance with religious, Islamic and divine obligations. Indeed, his goal is to justify his aggression against Kuwait and he endeavors to satisfy his expansionist whims and thirst for conquest. He has no concern for the people of Palestine because, if he had any concern for them, he would not have militarily supported Micheal Aoun against Palestinians. If he had any concern for them, he would not have attacked the Islamic revolution of Iran—the revolution which from its victorious outset has been concerned with the victory of Palestinian nation. Do you think that Saddam has risen to confront the world arrogance? This is merely a false hope since he is the creation of the arrogance and, until recently, received his biggest weapons for his good service to them. What you see today is the realization of God's promise that "(the unbelievers) plotted and planned, and God too planned, and the best of planners is God" [Koranic verse].

Who gave Saddam advance military technology? They gave Saddam those weapons then in order to confront Iran, control the Islamic revolution and protect Israel. And it was the will of God Almighty that today the same weapons are being used to destroy Zionists.

He added: Another important issue is the position of the regime of the Islamic Republic among Muslim nations of the world. Today, in order to escape the quagmire of Kuwait and gain the support of Muslim nations of the

world, Saddam has resorted to confronting Israel. This is similar to the raising of Koran atop javelins by the Jamal troops. [reference to the Jamal campaign launched against the rule of Ali, the Prophet's son-in-law, when the opposing forces resorted to the trick of raising Koran atop javelins in order to convince Ali's army that they are sincere in their Islamic belief and opted for a cease-fire].

Today, thank God, the true and shining face of the dear Islam is being revealed more by the collapse of arrogant and communist schools of thought. The attention of various nations of the world has been drawn to Islam. Under these conditions, when the true Islam is enjoying growth as a result of our late imam's endeavors, is it appropriate that for the sake of a limited move by Saddam—the firing of a few missiles on Israel—we become oblivious to all [Islamic] principles and fundamentals and endorse Saddam's past actions by endorsing him now and, thus, blow in the wind of demise all efforts of the imam of the nation and the exalted martyrs? We must not be simple-minded. This is not the war of right against wrong. Indeed, this is the war of two wrongs, two aggressors and two expansionists. [Saddam] thinks about annexing Kuwait and the other [side] is thinking about dominating the oil reserves. Therefore, by nature, this is the war of two aggressors and two occupiers and not the war of Islam against heresy. We are Muslims and, to date, our nation has sacrificed lives for Islam. But, what Islam? The American Islam!? The Saddam's Islam?! Neither one, since all these sacrifices, steadfastness and resistances have been for only one Islam and that is the pure Mohammeden (God bless him) Islam as depicted by our late imam. It was he who revealed the true faces of all the fake and fabricated schools of thought—the intellectual inventions of materialists—and once more crystallized the true face of the dear Islam after 1400 years by pushing aside from its face all curtains woven from arrogance. Now you assert that we should entrust the fate of Islam to a person who, until yesterday, was attacking it [Islam] in Iran. Is it not entrusting the lamb with the wolf? Of course, I sense that the position of some [people] is merely a reflection of their opposition to officials of our regime. It means that, these people must always play an opposing tune. Until a short while ago, when our government was trying to improve relations with Iraq and opening the doors for pilgrimage to holy shrines, these people were harshly stating that we do not wish for pilgrimage under Saddam's boots. Today, however, after the government's adoption of a balanced and neutral position in regards to the current war, these people ask how come we have sat silently and encourage that we heed Saddam's call on Muslims. At the time when the government was condemning the war between Amal and Hezbollah in Lebanon, these [people] were trying to intensify the animosity between the two belligerents.

In any event, although Israel has been shaken as a result of the firing of several missiles by Saddam and the hearts of the world Muslims have been filled with joy, but in

view of his serious crimes this is not enough. I shall state here that, since Saddam has not accepted the suggestion of the Islamic Republic of Iran to leave Kuwait, I suggest another solution. If he has really become wise, repentant for his shameful past mistakes and has accepted the true Islam—and in order to save himself from this quagmire and mobilize Muslims for attack against Israel—he should leave Kuwait by the request of the Islamic countries and leave the solution of the problem in the hands of the Islamic countries wishing to fight Israel. Then he will see that Muslim nations of the world will not lose this historic opportunity. At that time, not only America will be forced to leave the region, but also he shall witness Israel's disappearance at the hands of Muslim nations of the world under the command of the exalted leader.

Ratifications of the Majles

The amending suggestions put forth by the deputies in regards to the notes of the 1370 [starting 21 Mar 1991] national budget bill were studied and passed in yesterday's open session of the Majles.

The report of the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT indicates that, in accordance with the Note 10 of this bill, the sum of 10 billion rials has been allocated to be considered by the government to cover the debt owed by the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Iran Communication Company for the years 1348 through 1367 [21 Mar 1969-20 Mar 1989] for implementation of the letter of Article 32 of national plan and budget law.

Per the ratified suggestion of some deputies, allocation of credit [marked for] the Voice and Vision Organization in the second half of the year 1370 [starting 21 Mar 1991] shall be authorized only when the report of activities of this organization is prepared and approved by appropriate sources.

Note 11 - A. The sum of 3 billion rials is allocated for inauguration of hospitals ready to be put into service, quarantine centers and for hiring the required work force. This sum shall be used, accordingly, to increase the credit ceiling of universities, medical sciences colleges and regional health and treatment centers in provinces upon recommendation of Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Training and endorsement of the Plan and Budget Organization.

B. Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Training is authorized, upon ratification of the Council of Ministers, to act upon hiring the required work force for the purpose of initiating services in the units mentioned in Paragraph A and health and treatment centers.

C. The sum of 3 billion rials reconstruction credit shall be allocated for essential repairs of hospitals [under the jurisdiction] of regional health and treatment organizations of provinces.

D. A sum equivalent to the total earned income of each of the regional health and treatment organizations in provinces—subject of the Law for Utilization of Special Incomes of Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Training ratified by the Majles on 1365/5/9 [31 Jul 1986]—and the earned income from special contracts, subject of the law passed on 1351/12/27 [18 Mar 1973]—after being deposited in the National Treasury, shall be allocated for use and put at the disposal of the Regional Health, Treatment and Medical Training Organization from the Special Row Number 129000 of Part IV of this law.

Twenty percent of the aforementioned resources shall be allocated for creation of sewer system, [provision] of waste burning equipment, ensuring the hygiene of hospital environments, repair and completion of urban and rural health and treatment centers, health houses and urban health and treatment centers.

Based on the Paragraph attached to this Note, the sum of 7 billion rials shall be deducted from the reconstruction credit for the 1372 Treatment Services Plan subject of Table Number 5, Appendix Number One of the 5-Year Plan Law for Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran and [the same shall be] added to the credit ceiling of Row 30301334, Part II, Number One of this law to be utilized for establishment of 5 thousand hospital beds.

Another appending Paragraph indicates that, the sum of 2 billion rials from taxes on Customs Duty shall be added to the allocation for essential repairs of hospitals.

At least 50 percent of credits subjects of Paragraphs A and C must be utilized in city regions other than provincial capitals.

In yesterday's afternoon session of the Majles suggestions of deputies in regards to Note 11 (Paragraph E) through 14 were studied and some were approved.

In accordance with Paragraph E of Note 11 and after the exchange of agreement, total of 18 billion rials in credits shall be added by the Plan and Budget Organization to the approved credit ceiling of regional organizations of health and treatment of [each] province, universities and medical sciences colleges. This credit is to be utilized for implementation of the Employment Law for the staff of Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Training.

Also, in accordance with the amending suggestion by some of the deputies, credits of Row 129029 concerning the Imam Khomeyni Aid Committee was increased from 14 billion rials to 40 billion rials.

In accordance with Note 13: A. Authorization shall be granted for preparations leading to expeditious resolution of differences concerning buildings, installations and grounds of ministries, government organizations and institutions of the Islamic revolution which due special needs and necessities at the onset of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war were confiscated

without receiving legal authorization or agreement of former occupants and, at the present time, [such installations] are needed by the former occupant. [For this purpose] a committee shall be formed under the auspices of the head of the Plan and Budget Organization. It shall be attended by ministers of housing and urban development, economic affairs and finance (or their deputies) and ministers or highest executive officials of independent organizations party to such disputes or their fully authorized representatives.

B. Implementation of rulings issued by the committee in regards to affected organizations shall be mandatory. However, in case of non-implementation of said rulings by the affected organizations within the prescribed time for any reason, the Plan and Budget Organizations is obligated to deduct the appraised value of the disputed property from the operations and capital investment budgets for the year 1370 [starting 21 Mar 1991] of the violating organization—foreign exchange as well as rial—in accordance with the motion of the committee—without any consideration for limitations concerning the replacement as prescribed in the expenses items and the said amount to the budget of the organization benefiting from the ruling.

C. Evacuation of buildings and educational units which are at the disposal of Ministry of Education and Training in the year 1370 is forbidden.

Implementation of the Law of Evacuation of Educational Units shall be mandatory with elimination of Note 3 of the said law concerning the education and training which was ratified by the Majles in 67/9/20 [11 Dec 1988].

D. Refugees of the imposed war shall be exempt from this Note until returning to their original homeland.

E. Executive guidelines of this Note shall be prepared within one month by Plan and Budget Organization and Ministries of Housing and Urban Development and Economic Affairs and Finance and shall be ratified by the Council of Ministers.

Pakistan

Kashmir Group Says India Using Chemical Weapons

BK0504094091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The Majlis-i-Amal Kashmir [Kashmir Action Council] has drawn the attention of world leaders and the UN secretary general to the increasing atrocities by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. In separate telegrams addressed to heads of state and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the Majlis-i-Amal has said that the use of chemical weapons is yet another addition to the list of India's heinous crimes in Kashmir. The Majlis-i-Amal has alleged that the international media, the Red Cross, and Amnesty International representatives are not being allowed to

enter occupied Kashmir, and that Indian atrocities have forced about 100,000 Kashmiris to leave their homes and hearths. The Majlis-i-Amal has urged the world body and major powers to take notice of the large-scale violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir and save the region from destruction.

Crowd Threatens To Cross Kashmir Cease-Fire Line

BK0404005891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1936 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, April 3 (AFP)— Hundreds of Pakistanis gathered Wednesday near the cease-fire line in Kashmir, threatening to march onto the Indian-held side of the disputed territory, witnesses said.

The assembly at Garhi Dopatta, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the border, was part of an operation planned by a Motihedda Jihad (United Holy Struggle) Council (MJC) in support of the Moslem separatist movement in Indian-held Kashmir.

State authorities stopped the group and were trying to persuade them to abandon plans to cross the border, official sources said.

Leaders of the MJC, comprising 15 Kashmiri militant factions, demanded that Pakistan give all possible material support to the Kashmiri uprising in the southern two-thirds of Kashmir under Indian control.

Mumtaz Rathore Previews Polls, Fears Rigging

BK0404150191 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Apr 91 p 16

[Text] Islamabad, April 3—The AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Government has request Islamabad for a special grant of Rs. [rupees] two crore to meet the expenses of fresh general election scheduled to be held on July 2 this year.

Prime Minister Mumtaz Rathore, who recently dissolved the AJK legislative assembly, on Wednesday told newsmen at Kashmir House that he was determined to hold fair and impartial election and there was no chance of any delay or postponement as was being speculated by certain quarters.

The decision of dissolution, he said, was a timely one and he would be the last person to repent it.

Asked to comment on the AJK President Sardar Qayyum's recent demand of the possibility of delaying the election schedule, Mr. Rathore said, he would not favour such a "demand". He said he would soon have a meeting with the AJK President to finalise the election schedule.

To a question he said he remained the Prime Minister even after dissolution of the Assembly and that terming him as a caretaker Prime Minister was not fair.

To another question, Mr. Rathore said, chances of rigging in the next AJK election were there as his political opponents had made it a point to remove him

from the office at all cost. Those who purchased voters in past would repeat the same tactics during the election.

Mr. Rathore said he would soon meet President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to discuss with him AJK election plan. There were 12 AJK assembly seats in Pakistan where he said he feared "rigging."

Asked what prompted him to dissolve the AJK Assembly, he said "I did what Islamabad was about to do." The federal government through a constitutional clause wanted to dissolve the AJK Assembly. I reacted sharply and dissolved it myself and that is all, he said with a smile. Answering a question, he said there would be no ministers in his Cabinet. He would only induct some advisers to handle the affairs effectively. Some of his Cabinet colleagues and friends performed disappointingly during their association. He hoped that the AJK PPP [Pakistan People's Party] would emerge victorious in the next election as masses were with the party.

Both Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Begum Nusrat Bhutto whom he met recently hailed his decision of dissolving the assembly, assuring him of their fullest support in the election, the AJK Prime Minister said.

Assembly Discusses Kashmir, Troops in Gulf

BK0404120091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The National Assembly in Islamabad today admitted two identical adjournment motions about the atrocities being committed by the Indian forces against innocent Muslims, including women and children, in occupied Kashmir. The movers—Mr. Liaqat Baloch and Mian Mohammad Zaman—in their motions sought to discuss the issue and the minister of state in charge for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, did not oppose. The house decided to hold discussion on this issue on Monday.

The house was informed during the question hour that the Aircraft Manufacturing Factory at Kamra has entered into the export field and has received orders for Mashshaq [Pakistan-assembled version of the Saab Safari/Supporter] aircraft. The minister of state in charge for justice and parliamentary affairs also told the house that the Mirage Rebuild Factory has earned rebuild contracts for Mirage aircraft from a friendly country.

In reply to another question, he said that Pakistani troops will stay in Saudi Arabia as long as needed by the Saudi government.

Editorial Urges Broad Peace Pact for Afghanistan

BK0304110691 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Apr 91 p 7

[Editorial: "Fall of Khowst"]

[Text] The fall of Khowst, if it is not a tactical maneuver of the Najibullah regime, is a development of considerable

significance for Afghanistan. Khowst is the first major town to have fallen to the Mujahidin since the Soviet troops withdrew in February 1989. Earlier, the fiasco of the siege of Jalalabad had discredited the strategy of the Mujahidin. If the Afghan guerillas now manage to hold on to Khowst, they would for the first time demonstrate their ability to fight set-piece battles. Until now, their military strategy could do no more than destabilise the ruling power—including the occupying Soviet army which was compelled to pull out. This was not enough to unseat the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] regime and bring the Mujahidin to power in Kabul. The fall of Khowst indicates that the stalemated pattern of warfare in Afghanistan could change now. Evidently, better strategic coordination among the field commanders and less infighting among the Mujahidin leaders have produced results. More effective military assistance from their allies on this side of the Durand Line [Pakistan-Afghan border line] could also be a factor in the guerillas' victory as would be the depleting strength of the Kabul regime which has had to manage without direct assistance from its patrons in Moscow.

What should be emphasised is that the military success of the Mujahidin should not detract from the urgency of a political settlement. Even if the fall of Khowst is to be a turning point in the course of the war, it would be unwise to expect a military solution to resolve the Afghan problem. True, Khowst and other similar victories could strengthen the Mujahidin's bargaining position. But success on the battlefield will not assure the AIG [Afghan Interim Government] leaders of political control of the country. Given the ethnic heterogeneity and political diversity of Afghan society, it would be unrealistic for any party to rely on a policy of military force to assume control in Kabul. In the absence of a national consensus and political accommodation, whoever comes to power will be plagued by hostility from

the opposition, political infighting and dissensions. These constitute a sure recipe for destabilisation, which Afghanistan can ill afford after a decade of civil war. The fall of Khowst notwithstanding, the Mujahidin would do well to seek a political settlement from a position of strength. That alone can ensure permanent peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

'Heavy' LTTE Casualties Reported in Northeast

BK0404131091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0547 GMT 4 Apr 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 04 (LANKAPUVATH)—Heavy terrorist casualties were reported Wednesday as government troops backed by air cover continued their offensive against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in several areas in northern Sri Lanka. Four soldiers were also killed in the fighting. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the Army had joined the Navy Wednesday and launched an operation to clear the Karainagar area of terrorists. The sources said government troops backed by aircover had moved out of the Karainagar Naval Base and engaged the terrorists. The LTTE have suffered heavy casualties in the fighting, while two sailors and two soldiers were killed and 12 wounded. The sources said troops had met with very heavy fire and stiff resistance which was being overcome.

Heavy casualties were also inflicted on the LTTE in a battle at Nanandan in the Mannar District. Two soldiers were wounded here. Government troops were reported consolidating their positions four miles along the Vavuniya-Mannar road, having overcome stiff enemy resistance.